

PTA Board Meeting March 16, 2016

Minutes taken by: Lisa Listerman, Recording Secretary

In attendance: Barbara Bulfoni, Rola Baghdady, Lisa Listerman, Kate Abbruzzi, Laura VanderHart, Michael McCallister, Kate Weinstein, Noriko Tonomura, Rose O'Neil, Kate Bowen

Approval of Minutes - Mike moved, Kate seconded, all approved
Updated minutes with corrections circulated

Treasurer's Report: Budget Update - Sham Sokka not able to be present
Worked to update the budget
Budget report circulated, including changes on budget (see attached)
\$42,498 in budget
Board has already approved this budget

Officers for SY 2016-2017 - Barbara and Rola
We will need to fill the following positions: Treasurer, Recording Secretary and VP of in-school enrichment
Helpful to find a VP position, but not a priority
We will send out email to find out which coordinators will remain.
These positions will be included as needed to be filled, on same document as coordinators
Barb suggested dividing into 2 positions:
 Treasurer and Financial Secretary (used to be this way, preferable)
 Financial Secretary - preparing checks, doing deposits
 Treasurer - signs the checks; responsible for bank account
She will send nominating committee a description of the 3-4 positions needed to be filled

BASEP: updates - Kate Abbruzzi, Katie Dunks
268 registered. 23 Scholarship applications in the spring (vs. 9 scholarships in the fall)
\$600 over budget
\$1500 surplus last fall, so some carried over
Katie is working on classes for next fall
Always had policy of one child per family for Scholarship - but a family wanted multiple children to participate this year.. This is something to think about for next fall. We have 2 terms - 9 vs. 12 weeks
Will find out soon about teacher donation. This will help with the \$600 deficit.

In-school enrichment: updates - Karen Gutterman/ Noriko Tonomura
We are within budget! We started asking for parent contribution.
Budget assumed that most parents contributed and this has been the case. Only a few families didn't contribute.
How has money been allocated to each grade? Right now we do it based on number of children per grade (more money if more children per grade)
Points to think about:

- Considering dividing money equally?
- Or see what each grade is doing and then allocate the money.

2nd grade - will do Olde Town Trolley tour of Belmont, to see sights of Belmont (Waverly Trail, library, historical society, etc.) for local Belmont unit.

Will probably get former principal (Bruce McDonald) to do the tour. This will be an interactive trip and There is a \$500 grant to offset the cost (only expense for this field trip is transportation - currently under negotiation).

The whole grade will go in 2 trolleys.

Teachers are excited about the field trip!

Goal: for every kid to get a library card.

1st grade added the Butterfly Place

Booked in mid-June 6/14 (only time could book)

They can accommodate up to 60 students per tour, so going on 2 busses. Will have a picnic there.

Survey 2016 - Barbara and Rola reported

Recommendation is to change as little as possible, so can compare results from this year with last year.

Barbara would like to see us do more morning meetings.

Ask parents what they would like to be main focus of PTA, i.e. ask more general, big picture questions

What are the big zones and have people rank what they value.

Include an open-ended option, to allow people to express a need that is not being addressed

Slapstick Science Assembly - update by Laura

The circus performer/ scientist dislocated his shoulder, so originally scheduled date doesn't work. Wed 4/27 or Wed 6/8 are 2 possibilities.

People had a preference for 4/27.

We will start promoting that in the PTA newsletter.

Calendar Updates - Barbara and Rola

- The next event is **2 hours for Butler**, which we may have it in 2 shifts, if a lot of people sign up.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Week** - may be worth doing something to thank our volunteers during that week of 4/10. We had 100 volunteers this year for all the events (excluding officers, etc.)

Discussed the Pros and cons of doing it at night vs. breakfast. Breakfast is easier to organize, since there are no conflicts with babysitting, renting janitor, etc. We can offer coffee and breakfast for people who have volunteered this year. RSVP would be sent out. Mike advised avoiding Thursday mornings.

Nominating committee can be present and walk around and talk with people and thank them. One suggestion is to think about doing it after Color Day. The problem is there is no space to do it. We can't stay outside and we can't go in.

Can we move it to another playground? Decided it was too much to do it on Color Day.

Electronic Recycling Day moved to May 14 to coincide with Town's recycling day.

This will happen the same day as planting and clean-up

Question: When do we get back the back field? It's all fenced in, trying to grow grass.

Plan was originally to open it up in Sept.

Can we let kids on it for Color Day and then close it back up?

Considering going to PQ Park or doing color day in 2 shifts

The back field looks better!

Enrollment for K next year : 74 (compared to 49 at this time last year)

Kate B made an announcement: Kids Running group starting up at Payson Park
Kim Raubenheimer and Becca Pizzi will be leading it, around the Reservoir
7:20-7:40a. Drop off your child. Designed for 8-10 y.o.'s.
She will forward info so that Rose can post to FaceBook page

June is very busy!

Moozy's Day is Fri May 20 from 3-7p

Spring picnic is Thurs June 2 (with June 6 as rain date)

Color Day is Fri June 3 (Rain day is 6/07)

Red Sox game is Fri June 3

June 10 - 4th grade Moving On Ceremony in cafeteria (families are invited) and then move to PQ Park (students and teachers only - few parents to help)

Discussion: Barbara shared that one of town's candidates for selectman requested to come to one of our meetings. She believes either all of them come, or none of them come.

Barbara's opinion is to say no, b/c it may seem like PTA is taking a political position.

Katie says she likes the idea of both candidates coming.

But what about those running for School committee? Do we then open it up to others running for positions?

By the time candidates come to the General Meeting, the election will already be over. Anyone can come to General Meeting. We will let both candidates know this.

Rule: no getting signatures on school ground and no campaign signs

Kate Bowen asked question about having a bike rodeo:

SRTS does this: Walk training and/ or bike training - can set up template on how to do this.

There would be stations (how to put on a helmet, changing a tire, setting up mini course)

Is this of interest for us next year?

Mike suggested that Wheelworks may be interested in getting involved.

Do we think it should be Butler only, or get involved in a wider Belmont initiative?

Doesn't make sense to do it this year. What is the best time for that kind of training? Barbara thought the fall makes more sense.

Related question: crossing guards could be resources. Mike thought that could work, as they know the kids and could reinforce what kids learned.

Working on a bag that has Butler logo, to be used at moving on ceremony (filled with some items)

Cost \$1 each.

Can order 71 needed for ceremony, but Barbara though would be nice to order more and then sell next year for \$2, at Book Fair.

There is a sample coming, so can be viewed for durability

Next board meeting is the last board meeting.

We will try to move the next board meeting to a day other than Wednesday
(Not May 11)

Air Quality man is willing to come on April 13th

Meeting adjourned at 8:10p