

MINUTES - PTO General Meeting of March 2017



MEETING DETAILS

Tue Apr 4, 2017 – 6:30-7:30pm
Hosmer Library

Chaired by: Mina Roustaei, PTO co-President

Minutes recorded by: Regina Raz, PTO Recording Co-Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE:

PTO Board	Officers	Gina Brennan, Ellen Cross, Nicole Higgins, Regina Raz, Mina Roustaei
	Grade Level Reps	(Not designated)
	PTO Reps to Sch Com & PTU Com	(Not designated)
	Teacher Rep	(Not designated)
Principal & Assistant Principal	R. LaRoche and M.K. Fitzpatrick	
Parents	10 parents	
Teachers	Katja Pearse	
Representatives	Kendra Foley (Vice-Chair of the School Committee)	

MINUTES

1) Elizabeth Kaplan presentation of proposal to run a Math Night

- She was Principal of Lowell for 5 years, and the current Match Coordinator for PK-5
- The goals of the Math night are to provide enrichment and to increase family engagement.
 - Grant-based, low to no cost, option to try this year – she volunteers to coordinate.
 - Model, based on what has been done at Lowell:

Outline of Event

1. Library-Technology Petting Zoo, Computer Coding, Makerspace
2. Gym-Hands on math stations-run by parent volunteers, middle and high school students
3. Cafeteria-Geodome building
4. Hallways-problems for students and families left by teachers.
5. Main lobby-welcome activity and take home gift.

Needs

- Parent volunteers
- Some (minimal) supplies
- Funds for optional take home family gift and geodome building

Questions

- Date of event?
- Parent education/teacher involvement?

Next Steps

- Recruit committee
- Two planning meetings
- Presentation to staff at faculty meeting
- One of the objectives was to have parents & children engaged together. To encourage that, they gave some take-home handouts as incentive, and distributed fun math activities to take home.
- Response was very positive, and several teachers attended. 100 families participated.
- Cost was about \$750 (Geodome instructor fee: \$400)
- This organization was based on setting up a Planning Committee (with 3-4 people, able to recruit friends). They met twice starting in the beginning of April, and they run it before June.

- The proposal is approved, and is scheduled on 6/8, after the MCAS2.0 testing ends, and right after the Field Days.

2) Principal Update

- Report on the work with the Principal of the Middle school to streamline the transition of students between Elementary and Middle schools.
- Proposal from the Co-Principal to reinstate a Read-A-Thon fundraiser, which can be run April 24-May 5th.
 - The proposal is approved.
 - Families will be asked to sponsor a kid reading.
 - There will be opportunities for different activities around reading (including dressing in costumes representing characters).
 - The mechanism of the fundraiser will consist in keeping track of hours read (in blocks of defined time) or pages read. Discussion on how the money can be collected in the most practical way. The log forms will be distributed on the Thu of vacation.
- May 24th: parent information night at the Middle school.
- Input for child placement is open now.
- Update on the discussion of the FY2018 Budget at the School Committee Meeting of April 3. The vote will take place on April 6 and it is expected the Budget will be approved as presented – which implies loss of 4 teachers on the Hosmer staff: 2 classroom teachers (through attrition of 2 teachers retiring/leaving --not replacing them), 1 special education teacher, and 1 long-term substitute teacher.

3) Fifth Grade activities:

- Savers Donation Drive (<https://www.savers.com/donate/start-a-donation-drive/school>)
- T-shirt contest: kids come up with designs including ideas relating to Hosmer, graduation, the year. To be completed by Fri 4/28.

4) Upcoming Events

<p>MAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Date TBD -- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon ● Week of 5/1 -- Book Swap. Will be run by the Library, with some parent volunteers to sort books for grade level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collections in the week ending 4/24 ○ Leftover books will be donated for the 5th Grade Savers Fundraiser.
<p>JUNE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6/1 – Art & Music Extravaganza ● 6/5, 6/6, 6/7-- Field Days (4th-5th, 2nd-3rd, PK-1rst respectively) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decision not to sell T-shirts this year, given the many events in May and June this year ○ More water, less popsicles needed based on last year. ● 6/8 – Math Night ● TBD -- Box Tops. 5,000 collected so far. All asked to keep sending even past the contest deadline, as our Goal is to collect 7,000.
<p>UNDER WAY or COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BJ's – Program to get a discount in BJ's membership, and the PTO will get a kick-back

- International Night
 - Well run, excellent turn-out, good organization. The contribution of Ms. Pierce organizing the following key aspects of the event is recognized: using sign-up genius to centralize volunteering, engaging teachers and administrators to be present and participate, tapping into local restaurants for donations, promoting the collaboration between teachers and parents, bringing in an ethnic music group and Zumba activity, advertising (use of QR codes).
 - Abundance of meals, great response to the musical group (which was reasonably priced)
 - A lot of interactive experiences during the school day on International Day.
 - Excellent feedback from parents.
 - For next year, Ms. Pierce is considering to apply for a grant. The PTO can help.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm