

Sheehan School PTA Minutes Jan 11, 2022 @ 7:30pm

1. Mrs. Evans Update

- a. Mrs. Evans was unable to join tonight's meeting. Pertinent information will be shared in another format

2. President Update

a. Quarterly Update

- i. PTA has been focusing a lot of efforts towards teacher & staff appreciation (coffee cart, gratitude tree, pizza lunch mini succulents given to all, DD coffee cards) Trying to use local businesses for these purchases as well. If anyone has ideas, please share with the community
- ii. Recess/Activity Equipment. Each grade had an identified wishlist and the PTA purchased items such as soccer balls, kick balls, jump ropes, basketballs etc for recess.
- iii. Nurse Brown thank you gift - plant, hand lotion, chocolates
- iv. Trunk or Treat - new this year but well attended. Positive feedback given from attendees at tonight's meeting. Some felt that the Trunk or treat was a nice setting for children who might become overstimulated in an indoors setting.
- v. Parent Social this fall was well attended. New venue was Hale Reservation. Committee will improve lighting for next year. Raised \$16,000 for the school. Positive feedback from people who attended.
- vi. Outdoor Learning Center - fall clean up done by local landscaper. A committee worked to paint the tables and repaired/replaced the garden beds. Looks great! Mr. Hagel often holds his art class outside in this space.

3. Treasurer Update

a. Income:

- i. Winter apparel sale raised approximately \$3000.
- ii. Parent Social raised \$16,000 after costs
- iii. Lynch Creek Wreath Sale \$650
- iv. Dues: \$8500 collected

b. Expenses:

- i. Teacher Stipends: Beginning of the year \$100/teacher stipend to be used for classroom supplies/needs.
- ii. Teacher Appreciation - we have spent approximately \$1000 year to date. Budget is approximately \$3000 for the year. Significantly higher than previous years but given the environment we feel this is money well spent
 1. We have received a tremendous number of thank you notes for teacher stipends and teacher/staff appreciation.
- iii. Recess Items: \$500

- iv. Teacher Grants pending for the spring (for example sensory hallway granted a couple years ago)
- v. OLC (outdoor learning center) shed to be purchased - rubbermaid type shed to store items for the PTA
- vi. Field Day - T-shirts, popsicles, "swag"
- vii. Spring Social/parent night out - no fundraising component, just a night out socially
- viii. Buses for field trips - on hold for now

4. Mini-course Status

- a. On Hold - need a planning committee to take this over and virtual format would be necessary but did not feel this would be appealing to families, spring too busy. If interested, email Suzanne Insler

5. Future Events Planning (Spring 2022)

- a. Parents Night Out - need volunteers
- b. Would like to have more family nights - maybe a movie night. Seeking to have more community gathering type events - need a committee
- c. Book Fair
- d. Snowman competition after a snowstorm - come to Sheehan build a snowman and decorate the grounds.
- e. Seeking any new ideas, too

6. Social Media

- a. New Chair this year but she will be leaving the Sheehan School community and we need a new person to take over! Rebecca has done a great job!
- b. 220 on facebook page - approx 50 are not Sheehan families any longer. Would like to encourage more current families to join
- c. Instagram: 38 followers
- d. Would like to get more families to join either or both of these platforms - working for a school wide competition to join and will reward a PJ day for winning class! PTA will share the details.

7. DEI Update

- a. Fall Event - playground social well attended. Approximately 20 families - many K-2 families which was nice to see younger families getting together.
- b. Spring Event: Family culture event. Meeting with Mrs. Evans to identify date/vision etc. Would like to have lots of families participate.
- c. Grant received from Dedham Savings to be used to purchase Little Justice Leaders box set - 3 month subscription 1 per teacher. Boxes include items like: books, posters, lesson plans/suggested activities around box items. Resources are reusable and will benefit the school community for future years.
- d. <https://littlejusticeleaders.com/>

8. SEPAC Update

- a. Special Education Parent Advisory Council
- b. Over holidays fundraiser held to collect funds for Special Education teachers - gift cards, chocolates given
- c. Grant through Westwood REcreation. Pilot program involving neurodiverse children with neurotypical children to work together. Tremendous interest (30 families signed up for 6 spots!)
- d. Many upcoming events - basic rights
- e. Zoom groups held within neurodiverse community - general, language based learning differences 1/20/22, autism 1/26/22, visually impaired and medically complex - early Feb. All info can be found on westwoodSEPAC.com
- f. Fundraisers are ongoing to continue to support Special Education teachers
- g. Special events are posted on Facebook page as well

9. 5th Grade Planning Committees

- a. To identify a head person for each group. Groups are as follows:
 - i. Yearbook - Melissa McDonogh is PTA Exec Board liaison. Received information from last year's yearbook planning group to help kick things off. Relatively quick turnaround - submit to the organizing company by the end of April.
 - ii. Fundraising - child contributions, PTA contribution. Will need to pay for class gifts and class party. Will look at last year's funds/budget. We have \$10 per student from PTA earmarks. Ideas include restaurant night in February, football squares for Super Bowl, Fundraisers to get kids involved, 50/50 Raffle. Sell treats at Kindergarten soccer - kids to work the booth. March Madness tournament squares etc.
 - iii. Class Gift - send them to Rebecca Sullivan - rebecca.luber@gmail.com. Suggestion made to reach out to Mrs. Evans & Mrs. Erwin to identify needs for the school as well. Group can consider gifts to students as well. Rebecca Sullivan to head up this group.
 - iv. End of the year party - past events include Tree Tops, Dedham Health & Athletic Club. We have last year's expenditures and will share this with the group. Should be an outside venue. Sarah Rodrigues to chair this group.