

Abbey Lane PTA Meeting Minutes

November, 17 2015

Call to order by Dawn Marmo at 7:07pm, Quorum present. Welcome to all followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

I. **Presidents Report-** Dawn Marmo

Dawn brought up the issue of double parking in front of the school during drop off and pick up. Dawn described an accident that she witnessed that was of concern to her. This prompted a lengthy discussion on how this problem can be solved and how we can make sure all the children are safe. Dr. Maurer added that the school has no control over the traffic situation and that the police have been called in the past. He suggested that we reach out to the board about this concern. The superintendent is aware of the situation and she is trying to get a traffic study done to see how they can make physical changes to part of the baseball field for the buses. Linda Savage and Beth Lyons raised the idea of forming a group of parents to brainstorm ideas to present to the board at a BOE meeting. Another idea was raised to have a “flyer campaign” to get other parents involved. Dawn tabled the discussion to move on to other PTA matters.

II. **Recording Secretary-** Jenny DeMeo

Minutes from October 27th meeting were presented for review. One change will be made to correct the spelling of Mrs. Grand’s last name. Jenny DeMeo made a motion to approve the minutes with the one change, 1st Kathleen Pederick, 2nd Marianne Russo, motion carried.

III. **Treasurer’s Report-** Tina Bodkin

Tina presented the opening and ending balances of all accounts including PayPal. Please refer to the Treasurer report for details. Tina also explained that the taxes have been filed. Susanne Gallina audited the books and found them to be in good order. A motion was made to approve the report, 1st Beth Lyons, 2nd Kathleen Pederick.

IV. **1st VP Report**- Amy Hoffmann

Amy reported that the gingerbread house fundraiser is over and sold about 23 houses. Governor's Comedy night is coming up, 16 people have bought tickets so far. The vendor fair is coming up and it will be on the 25th from 6-10pm at Levittown Hall.

V. **2nd VP Report**- Jennifer Banfich

Jen clarified that the 5th grade boosters can have 25 words as opposed to 25 characters. Paint night was a lot of fun and raised \$695.00. Entemann's flyers went out and they are due back by Tuesday. We still need chairs for PARP which starts on Jan 28th.

VI. **3rd VP Report**- Michelle Florio

Michelle indicated that we still need someone for the community scholarship and someone to represent Elementary and Secondary Curriculum meetings.

VII. **Special Committees**-

- **Book Fair**- The book fair went well, some children and parents didn't realize that taxes were not included. We need to let parents know that there are taxes on Scholastic book fairs. The next book fair will be held on PARP kick off night on Jan 28th.
- **Poinsettia sale** – Vanessa Dooley (Chairperson)
Flyers will be sent home by the end of the week. Pickup will be on the night of the Secret Store which is on Dec 3rd from 3:30-6pm.
- **Pictures**- Picture retake day is on Nov 24th. Club pictures will be taken and retakes will be taken. If you are retaking the pictures, please keep the class picture and bring back the rest of the package.
- **Annual Fundraiser**- Dawn Marmo and Amy Hoffmann
We are still looking for donations if anybody would like to help solicit or have connections to get donations please contact Dawn or Amy. Invitations are going out soon there will be \$100 raffle for early registrants.
- **Blood Drive** Marie Adams and Linda Savage
A representative from the Blood Center spoke to the PTA members and emphasized the need for blood and how we have a shortage on Long Island.

She encouraged all to give blood at Abbey Lane on Dec 8th in the All Purpose Room at 4pm on Dec 8th.

VIII. Standing Committees

- **Cultural Arts**- Beth DiCaprio
Beth reported that she booked Star Lab which will take place on Dec 7th and 6 classes at a time will attend at one time. Jeff Nathan – Poetry has also been booked. You can order a personalized book in advance for \$19.99. Story Faces has also been booked for the entire school to enjoy.
- **Membership**- Samantha Stanley
Membership went from 261-263. Samantha created and had the calendars for December and January available at the meeting.
- **Honorary Life**- Beth Lyons
Reading through nomination letters and will announce at the next meeting.

X Liaison Reports

- **Septa**- Cheryl Denecke
Cheryl gave a brief account of the SEPTA meeting. They had a special presentation from S.A.F.E -Special Action for Escape. The presenter will discuss Jiu Jitsu and escape moves. Marsha who is the presenter offers 6 week programs in this area.
- **Food Service**- Jenny DeMeo
Jenny reported that the Big Daddy Pizza and Toni's pizza are being alternated on Friday's for financial reasons. The visit to the cafeteria went well and the kitchen is well run and kids looked happy.
- **Health and Safety**- Beth Lyons will call for a meeting

XI. Principal's Report-

Dr. Maurer turned the meeting over to Mrs. Grand who discussed the "Get a Voice" Program. Mrs. Grand indicated that Character Education would be incorporated in the get a voice program. Each family is being asked to make a pledge, a Connect Ed message will be sent out to remind families. Classes with 100% participation will get a prize.

Dr. Maurer along with Mrs. Boos and Mrs. Schneider presented a new activity that they are working with the 5th grade on. They have set up a studio in the library where they broadcast various news or morning announcements. The students are learning videography, editing, interviewing, and many other valuable skills. Currently the student broadcasters are using a map as a background and are in need of a green screen to add to their broadcasts.

Kathleen Pederick made a motion to purchase the green screen with the condition that it stays within the budget of the \$1500 that was approved to buy the rear screen projector for movie nights. The cost would be \$75 plus \$96 to purchase the Green Screen, 1st Sue Harrington, 2nd Sue Gallina, all approved, none opposed, motion carried to purchase the Green Screen.

XII. **New Business**

- Food Drive is ongoing
- Toy Drive is coming in December- Only new unwrapped toys
- Dawn passed around a basket to collect donations for adopt a family which Mrs. Grand briefly talked about
- Winter Concert is on December 14th ad 15th
- Dawn asked if there was any new business. A parent had the concern that other parents and children don't understand or even know about the special needs children in the school. Dawn suggested that a teacher or school social worker come to a PTA meeting to talk to the parents. The parent also had a concern that the Boo Party was very loud and couldn't accommodate children that have sensory needs.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:28pm by Dawn Marmo

Minutes submitted by Jenny DeMeo-Recording Secretary