

Hillside Elementary School

PTA Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2016

- I. Call to Order by Alex Wells at 7:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes
 - A. Motion to approve by Kim Krentcil
 - B. Second to approve by Joanna Dzama
 - C. October 11, 2016 meeting minutes approved.
- III. Correspondence
 - A. Thank you note from Mr. Gramata for playground equipment.
 - B. Thank you note from teachers for Kids Stuff books.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Provided by Meryll Kropac
 - B. Bank Balance as of October 31, 2016

Checking	\$50,523.07
Outdoor Resources	\$2,765.07
Money Market	\$1,799.10
Games of Chance	\$100.37
Pay Pal	\$512.25
Total	\$55,699.86

- C. See full Treasurer's report for additional details.
- V. Membership
 - A. Provided by Zan Ouyang.
 - B. There are a total of 206 members of the PTA including teachers.
 - C. Buzz books were distributed to Students on Monday, November 14th.
- VI. President's Report:
 - A. Provided by Alex Wells
 - B. Huge thank you and "pat on the back" to Yan Ouyang for doing a great job on this year's Buzz books
 - C. Volunteers of the month: Alison Anapolle and Rania Gerges for their work on the apparel sale; Kim Krentcil for the Kids Stuff books; Priscilla Moschella for her work on the PTA website.
 - D. Feedback was received regarding the Buzz Book that there is a need for more guidelines with regards to advertising.
- VII. Old Business
 - A. KidStuff Books: "finally over"
 - B. Apparel sale was a success.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. 5th Grade Committee – Reported by Margaret Davis. The “Boo Bags” sale was a success. This Friday instead of a bake sale there will be a pretzel sale -- \$1.00 per pretzel and \$0.50 per water. A bake sale will be held from 6:30-7:30 at the fall family fun night this Friday night. Each item will be \$0.50.
- i. Year Books: This year ordering and payment will be done online. In addition, messages on back of the year book will also be purchased online. Ordering will start in January 2017. 5th graders will receive a year book (they will only have to pay if they want a hardcover upgrade). Reminder to keep sending in photos.
 - ii. Spring Fundraiser: Will be held on March 3, 2017 at the Hanover Manor. It will be a tricky-tray. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Looking for anyone with businesses and/or connections that would like to make donations. Wish lists will go out shortly. In addition, each class donates a basket (\$5 from each student’s contribution to the class collection is used towards the basket).
- E. Board of Education Observer. Reported by new committee chair, Kelly Meyer. She went to the last meeting which was not a voting meeting. Meeting was opened with a presentation from Collins’ 4th and 5th graders regarding “being caught being good.” There was a speaker from the Livingston Education Coalition who took a strong stand against standardized testing including the PARCC. A LHS guidance counselor provided a description regarding data collected regarding the window to add/drop classes. A report was given regarding other standardized test. All scores are amazing. For example, mean score for the SAT is 100 points higher than the mean score for the entire state. It was noted that the superintendent is in favor of standardized testing.
- F. Box Tops: Alex Well reported based upon an email from committee chair, Nicole Aaron-Wagener. 1,143 box tops were submitted in connection with our summer collection. 2,729 box tops were submitted in connection with the October collection. We received the final confirmation from the BRF that the submission was accepted, audited and credited to our account. Including our fall submission, our carry-over balance from June, the Shoprite From Home and BTFE Bonus App earnings, the next check will be \$879.30 and we should receive it in December. We are only 1 collection into the class contest, but the current ranking are 1st place—Pacheco, 2nd place – Wallock, and 3rd place –Gursky. Next collection is due November 30th. It is recommended that a separate summer collection contest not be held for next year.
- G. Book Fair: Reported by Denise Dunton. Coin collection will go directly to buying books for the classroom libraries. Scholastic to match. Family Fun Night is this Friday (11/18) from 6-8pm. There will be games, books and raffles. In addition, teachers will be reading. Next week students will have an opportunity to shop for books during school. Volunteers are still needed. This book fair is in place of the Barnes and Noble book fair. An apology was made to the 5th graders because Family Fun Night conflicts with the 5th grade social. Margaret Davis noted for future reference that the 5th grade social is always held in November.

- H. Community Service: reported by Denise Dunton. The Halloween candy collection was a success. Over 250 lbs. of candy was collected and sent to Operation Gratitude, an organization that prepares care packages to troops stationed over-seas. There will be a clothing drive in December for the Jersey Battered Women Center.
- I. Cultural Arts: reported by Denise Dunton. 2 programs have been scheduled. The first in December is David Harrell (diversity and inclusion) and in February Hip Hop Fundamentals.
- J. Holiday Shop: Reported by Meryll Kropac, committee co-chair. The holiday shop will be held December 13-15th in the movement room. Committee members will be contacted. If you did not sign-up for the committee and wish to volunteer please let Meryll know.

IX. Principal's Report:

- A. reported by Mrs. Richmond. Mr. Gramata was unable to attend because he was not feeling well.
- B. Book fair: Special thanks to Mrs. Domicola for coordinating readers. A list of readers and times will be provided shortly.
- C. Caring Communities: 1st one for the year will be next week. Theme for the year is mindfulness.
- D. November 29th –Special Guest Author – Mr. David B. Thanks to Mrs. Donnelly for arranging. Orders are due on Wednesday, November 16th.
- E. Hour of Code. Kindergartners are very excited for the Bee Bots. Thanks to the PTA for purchasing them.

X. Comments:

- A. Mrs. Richmond apologizes for not being able to make the Book fair.
- B. Mrs. Domicola thanks the PTA for allowing the teachers to make a list wish for the book fair.
- C. Question was raised as to the grouping for Caring Communities. Students remain in same group every year.
- D. Alex Wells thanks parents and staff for volunteering.

XI. Meeting adjourned by Alex Wells at 7:35