

PTA Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 22, 2015
9:15 a.m.

Attendees: Nicola Davies, Ginna Yerrall, Lisa Smith, Kristen Schestag, Johnna Reuter, Carolyn Lyon, Susan Price, Dr. Mitchell, Kristin Baldwin, Yim Lai, Vanessa Elias, Jamie Lu, Laura Rowley, Jen Acerra- Markey, Gretchen Jeanes, Melissa Kennedy, Hillary Morrissy, Vanessa Elias, Carolyn O'Keefe, Diane Strickrot

Cider Mill Helping Hands Presentation:

Cider Mill Helping Hands presented to our PTA meeting. They were represented by 4 students who worked with an adult design team to design ideas to make our school better. The student's leadership team set the goals to make. There were 2 groups, one to analyze the words and a second to analyze the numbers. Some strengths of our school are that we are safe and welcoming, we take care of each other, students can talk to teachers, they know what to do if something happened, students' works are displayed, bright, colorful, and inviting, and everyone is very nice and treated fairly. Areas where improvement is needed are to have healthier food, with more lunch choices and vote on what we (the students) want. More time for specials. Teach people to treat others with respect. Sometimes they don't always feel like they can talk to people about what's bothering them. Sometimes people say mean hurtful things, and it does not always work well when adults intervene. The goals are to inspire student teacher relationships, to help have students connect, to work together to improve trust and communication. Ways to achieve these goals are to create a bulletin board to write nice things, awards for being respectful that will be given by earning Corey tickets. New quotes for being kind. The main goal is getting to know each other better and develop respect. The survey was voluntary and anonymous. The goals were the same for both groups but the goals were developed by the teachers' and students' perspectives.

Lisa Smith called the meeting to order.

Dr. Mitchell thanks Lisa for a job well done and for helping for her first years here.

President's Report

This will not be the last meeting. We will hold one more meeting. The current board is still a working board until July. Mr. Greasley is trying to get a technology grant in hopefully by Friday. There will be one more meeting on Thursday, May 28th at 9:00 am. We will just be assembling to vote. **An email was sent out after the meeting to change the date to Friday, May 22 to vote. **

We have field days coming up and celebrations, so this will be a different time to have a meeting and it's difficult to reschedule. Dr. Mitchell wants to make the best use of the funds and would like to get it in for this year. Lisa will be sending out an email regarding this meeting.

We have been asked to donate \$100 for the food for the Technology Expo. Johnna makes a motion that we donate a \$100 for the food for the technology fair. Hillary seconds the motion. All approved. Motion passes.

The slate for the Executive Board is as follows:

President: Nicola Davies

Membership: Lisa Finn

Fundraising: Gretchen Jeanes

Secretary: Hillary Morrissey

Parent at Large: Susan Price

Publicity is open and listed as an executive position with the slate, but it can't be changed unless we change the by laws. A marketing position is in place that fulfills the job. Treasurer is currently still open. Johnna makes the motion that the previously stated slate be considered for next year's board. Any questions or discussion? Ginna asked the question, "Do we vote again when we have a new treasurer?" Currently, Kristin will be the Treasurer until July, but it will then be an open position. Yes, we do need to vote. No further discussion. Jen Mitchell seconds the motion. All in favor motion passed. Congratulations to the new Executive Board.

Secretary's Report:

Ginna makes a motion to approve the minutes. Jen seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. Please sign in.

Teacher Representative

Thank you again for the \$100 grant. A reminder email will be sent out to make sure to submit the grants. Thank you again for being here and for all you do.

Principal's Report

Dr. Mitchell thanked everyone for the extra special teacher treats during Teacher Appreciation Week. Everyone enjoyed them and were made to feel very special. Any questions about the Helping Hands? One thing that showed up was a lot of "I don't know" and were not able to answer the question. The hope is to have that decrease for next year. One goal that was also created was to make sure we create adult to adult respect and communication. Ginna posed question of "How was the group created?" They were given very specific guidelines to pick the most diverse group of kids possible to have the most impact and represent all kinds of students. As well there is an equally diverse adult group as well. They are working with Bill Prebble. There are a total of 22.

There are more 3rd and 4th grade with some 5th because the 3rd and 4th will be continuing at Cider Mill next year. Projects will be brought in to include the students. The 5th graders will be trained and continue to help at Middlebrook. They may not keep all the 5th graders to keep the diversity of the group. The Helping Hands group has also already presented to the faculty.

Budget: The school budget and the town budget are connected. The budget did pass.

There will be some classes needing downsized. The classes it will be affecting at Kent 4th going to 5th and Belden Hill 3rd going to 4th. The first step is to send home a letter to see if they are open to moving. There's a week timeframe to see if anyone is interested in volunteering to move to one of the other houses. We would need "one class" to be

dispersed. This will probably be a yearly thing for awhile. The cap currently on students is 23. If not enough kids are willing to switch, then they will go to a lottery system.

We would like to have parental input in creating the Cider Mill Vision. They have had District Input and Helping Hands. We would like it to be in place for next year. On Friday, there is a first draft of the school calendar. There would be a meeting to attend. Something can be put in the Hot Cider. Currently, the adult design team is only made of teachers.

Mindset Book Club was moved from the 18th to the 19th because of the concert.

Revisions:

Every other day schedule is back to a 45 minute block every day to have a more consistent schedule. World Language in 3,4, and 5 for 45 minutes every other day on a 6 day schedule. The number of days drives the days of rotation. We will not have the Special Classes rotating. Collaborative will be with World Language every other day. There could be a lot of teachers switching next year.

Special Area teachers will not be available for coverage. There was a possibility of a very small book fair to celebrate summer reading. We would need at least 6 days to do it, but we will be doing it next year.

Any New Business:

No new business

Email will be sent out regarding voting. Meeting adjourned 10:15.