

Cider Mill PTA Meeting Minutes

March 12th, 2019

Attendees:

Amanda Patania, Vanessa Elias, Michelle Krupa, Carolyn Lyon, Officer Diane MacLean, Jackie Couch, Tara Raniolo, Elizabeth McKay, Sabeth Alberts, Lisa Finn, Ritu Malik, Kara Berghaus, Jennifer Bell, Dr. Jennifer Falcone

1. Meeting convened at 9:22am
2. Welcome by Amanda Patania and Carolyn Lyon

Carolyn Lyon thanked Hospitality Committee for the bus driver's breakfast held at Comstock. They absolutely love this event and we are one of the only towns that offer this type of event.

The PTA is still in need of filling the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Co-President, Visiting Author co-chair, and various other committee positions.

Amanda Patania announced that the Box Tops Competition just began on March 11th and will run for 2 weeks.

3. Principal's Report- Dr. Jennifer Falcone

The LLC will be undergoing some major cosmetic renovations this summer. Thank you to the PTA for generously donating some funds to help this project.

Wilton Reads Project: Cider Mill students will be read "Whispering Town" by Jennifer Elvgren which is an age-appropriate picture book that discusses survivors of the Holocaust.

*Tara Raniolo questioned if all grades would be listening to the same book. Dr. Mitchell said "Yes, all student will hear the same story and we will also be having a school-wide author presentation on April 4th."

Please read the upcoming newsletter as there will be pertinent information regarding PowerSchool. We are having many issues with parents not updating information.

*Carolyn Lyon and Amanda Patania suggested that there be a step-by-step tutorial for parents to follow. The PowerSchool website and App are totally different, and parents may not understand what needs to be updated and how.

*Vanessa Elias commented that there are many issues with the snow day phone calls. Dr. Falcone noted that PowerSchool can be updated so only certain phone numbers can receive the calls. Vanessa also asked if PowerSchool and MobileArq have all the same information. NO, they do not.

4. PTA Teacher Representative- Diane Strickrodt on behalf of Cheryl Ryder

Calendar of Music and Art shows will be published soon once revisions are made.

5. Guest Speaker: Officer Diane MacLean, School Resource Officer

She has been in the Wilton Police Department for 19 years, she moved into the SRO position as the department felt 2 officers were needed based on society changes (social media, increase in drug/alcohol). She works M-F 7:00am-3:00pm mostly in Middlebrook and Cider Mill. Rich Ross is the High School SRO.

They handle all calls related to persons 18 years of age and younger in the town of Wilton. If issues arise at their homes, they will follow-up at school to make sure everything is good. This can include calls ranging from family illness to abuse.

She stressed that she is not at the school as a disciplinarian. She is there to bridge the gap between kids and police, build a relationship and educate. She will help with certain situations that are brought to school from home. She works closely with the guidance departments, social workers, school psychologists.

She teaches classes in both schools including a class for 2nd graders at Miller Driscoll.

2nd Grade: Stranger Danger

3rd – 5th: Bullying, Intro to Internet Safety, Rules vs. Laws, Peer Pressure

6th: 3-day Internet Safety Course discussing predators and how to keep yourself safe online. Compares social media to Halloween. Everyone has masks on and you need to be careful of who is behind that mask. Advises to shut down devices at night just like you do the doors to your house. Online predators work at all hours.

7th: Drugs, Alcohol, and Vaping

She complete certifications every 2 years to stay on top of the ever-changing issues we face in society. She recently had Gang Training and was completely shocked at how much violent video games and social media videos play out in real life. She wants to find a way to bring information to the parents of the community rather than just educating the students on these types of issues.

Q & A:

Kara Berghaus: Thanked her for all she is doing to keep our schools safe. Relating to the gang training, it is a good idea to teach our students the flip-side of life. They need to know that there is much more out there than the comforts of Wilton.

Vanessa Elias: Suggested we create a "SRO Block" to all school newsletters. Also, put a link to the SRO Information on the Wilton Police Department Website. Catherine O'Keefe to create a blurb for the Principal Newsletters re: Officer MacLean's role in Cider Mill

Ritu Malik: Walks track with kids and always finds alcohol containers lying around. How can we prevent that?

DM: There really is no way to prevent it. It is a hard issue to tackle because once police start patrolling one area, people will just find another area to loiter and leave trash. If you see a bunch of alcohol containers in certain areas, please contact WPD and advise them.

Carolyn Lyon: Question from concerned parent- On Fridays, when all administration are at a meeting, how is that keeping our building safe if there were to be an emergency situation?

DM: This really is not a police issue, it is an education issue. I will tell you that there are other members of the school in place that are very well trained to do exactly what the administration would do in emergency situations. All teachers and staff are trained in emergency procedures regardless if the administrator is in the building or not.

Carolyn Lyon: After school hours, are buildings monitored?

DM: After Sandy Hook, a Security Task Force was formed and they work on some great training to keep community buildings safe. Wilton has security cameras in place that directly feed into the WPD. They do random building checks and perimeter checks. WPD is very aware of what vehicles should be where and what times throughout the entire day/evenings and after hours. They maintain a relationship with the custodial staff to communicate anything out of place and report it immediately.

OFFICER REPORTS

6. Treasurer Report- Lisa Finn

Financial Statements as of 3/7/19 provided

- Revenue/Fundraising:
 - a. No significant changes
- Expenses/Programs:
 - b. Pizza & Paint - netted ~\$200 income
 - c. 3rd Grade Enrichment - \$1,125 Forces in Motion 3/1/19
 - d. 5th grade yearbook - ads collected \$2,385 via PayPal thru 3/7
 - e. Hospitality - paid \$172 bus driver breakfast
 - f. Internet Safety Presentation on April 1- paid \$1,850, \$600 from MB PTA for share of parent presentation, for net expense of \$1,250
- Cash balance - total \$55.8K
 - g. \$33,963 in checking account for operations
 - h. \$21,840 in money market account for reserve (1 year operations)

7. Membership Report- Jackie Couch on behalf of Alex Frisbee

As of March 10, 2019, we have a total of 392 members (3 new since January). 355 parents and community members, 37 teachers. 355 parent members=295 families (60 family, 235 single).

8. Fundraising Report- Amanda Patania on behalf of Shannon MacDonald

New York Yankees flyer went out for game tickets in May. Amanda is going to do a small, fun fundraiser called "Staffle Raffle" for the end of April! Students will be able to purchase raffle tickets for \$1.00 which they can put towards an array of activities done with their teachers (ex. Pizza lunch with the Principal, Breakfast with Mr. Hossler, Kickball game with friends and a teacher) in May/June.

9. Secretary Report- Jackie Couch

Approval of January 2019 meeting minutes. Jackie Couch made the motion. Amanda Patania seconded. Motion passed, no one opposed.

10. Parent at Large Report- Ritu Malik

Missed the budget meeting, however noted that it was very poorly attended. Brought along the flyers that depict the budget for the WPS. The next BOE and BOF budget meetings are planned for 3/25. Trudy Denton had another great Math session for parents. Lots of good questions. Will be one more session on 3/18.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. Hospitality Report- Sabeth Albert

The Hospitality Committee will host Soup and Salad Bar for the Faculty and Staff on March 20th. A notice on Facebook and Hot Cider went out this week and many people responded with donations, so we are all set!

12. Zero Waste Committee- Elizabeth McKay on behalf of Laura Rowley

We will be hosting another Zero Waste Week in March leading up to the Zero Waste Faire on March 23rd at the WHS Fieldhouse.

Part 2 of their campaign to follow ZWW, which includes a student poster contest and having teachers get more involved with snack time sorting. Students have been doing a great job of sorting their waste and recycling during lunch.

13. Gifts and Grants- Michelle Krupa

We have a request from the Garden Club for \$800 to use for Earth Day celebration. We already have a line item for \$200 and would like to increase this line item to \$1000 to help them cover their costs for the entire year. We would also like to change their name to "Outdoor Learning Club" to incorporate all their activities. Michelle Krupa made the motion. Amanda Patania seconded. Motion passed, not one opposes.

14. Lost and Found- Jackie Couch on behalf of Amanda Mitchell

All L&F items will be donated to The Turnover Shop and the Middlebrook textiles bin on Friday, April 5. The racks in both locations are completely full and have full bins of hats/gloves. The racks will be rolled to the lobby the week of April 1-5 in hopes more parents will see them before the donation date.

15. Box Tops- Jackie Couch on behalf of Heather Mroz

Cider Mill's Box Tops for Education Drive will be March 11th - 22nd. The classrooms that collect the most Box Tops during this period will win prizes! This year all Box Tops will be collected from the Box Top collection tray in the main office. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Mroz, Box Tops for Education Chair at heathermm@optonline.net

16. SEPTA- Kara Berghaus

SEPTA is making its push for membership right now (currently 65 members). We are hosting a FREE event at Ambler Farm on April 11th. It will be a nice social event from 5-8:00pm with a special guest speaker from Literacy How. It is first come, first serve. \$20 fundraiser bracelets made by one of the moms will be on sale during the event.

Diversity Inclusion Awareness Month is in April. Dress Like a Bee Day will be held at Miller Driscoll and Cider Mill on April 5th. There will be a BEE Kind prize drawing for kids.

Top Inclusion Models at the High School are rehearsing for their play "Spaghetti and Hot Dog Buns" to present to MD on April 2nd and CM on April 5th.

Parent and teacher surveys went out to gather information on what's important for them to be focusing on as a SEPTA.

17. Wilton Youth Council- Vanessa Elias

There was a testimony held in Hartford for No Neglect and Free Play Initiative. Kevin Smith attended. Also discussed the Mandatory 50 Minute Recess initiative.

Pressure to be Perfect Seminar will be held on March 20th at 10:00am in Wilton and in the evening in Weston.

Bicycle Rodeo will be held on April 6th from 10am-noon at Miller Driscoll. For all ages and abilities

Pop-up Adventures playtime will take place April 23rd from 1-5:00pm at Comstock. Morgan Leichter-Saxby, co-founder of Pop-Up Adventure Play, introduces key concepts from the UK-based field of Playwork, which has been supporting children's adventurous, open-ended play since World War II. Learn more about the importance of play at all ages, and simple ways to support your children's open-ended exploration at home and beyond. Children of all ages can experience Pop-Up Adventure Play while parents talk with Morgan.

Block Party Weekend will take place on June 8-9th. Trying to build free play and community amongst neighbors.

Splits- a new group for children to help deal with divorced parents. You can register online at www.wiltonyouth.org

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am