

Cider Mill PTA- General Membership Meeting April 19, 2016

Attending: H. Morrissy, N. Davies, L. Finn, M. Mouracade, J. Acerra-Markey, G. Yerrall, C. Lyon, M. Jones, K. Baldwin, M. Tarantino, G. Jeanes, K. O'Keefe, J. Jackson, S. Kress, A. Aronowitz, Y. Lai, J. Mitchell, C. Ryder.

President's Report:

Odyssey of the Mind was a huge success. Six teams attended the state competition and two teams placed 4th and one team placed 5th. Hoping to get teachers involved next year to encourage students to participate-- discussion of possible doing a presentation to a group of staff with one of the teams as a demonstration.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to adopt and approve the minutes from meeting of March 2016 PTA meeting made by Hillary Morrissy. Seconded by J. Acerra-Markey. All approved. Motion carried.

Teacher's Representative Report:

It is field trip season- thank you to the parent volunteer. Poetry in Motion was a huge success before spring break with the fourth graders. Turkey trop was postponed. Fifth grade invention convention took place and the book swap. Thank you in advance for teacher appreciation, everyone looks forward to it.

Principal's Report:

Asst. Principal O'Keefe reports that she is currently working on the MAP and SBAC testing schedule. Five new Chrome carts and portable internet hubs have been acquired to allow more testing at one time, for example, all four 5th grade teachers in a house can test at one time, allowing them to remain on the same curriculum schedule for team teaching. Administration will ensure that specials teachers do not schedule tests during that time.

Dr. Mitchell reports that the four schools will be meeting to discuss the 400k cut that needs to be made. Less placement letters were received than in previous years. There will be at least 1 lottery for shifting students from one house to another based on class size requirements. A grant request for 80k has been submitted to WEF to get started on the new learning commons with the goal of transforming a current lab into the space so that the program can begin sooner.

Fifth grade parents will be invited to attend the Celebrations school assembly, at the end of which 5th graders will be celebrated individually and congratulated for moving up to Middlebrook. Check the school calendar for dates.

Officer's Reports:

Treasurer Michelle Tarantino projects 43k in the PTA account at the end of the school year, of that amount, an ability to use 38k.

Membership- Lisa Finn reports 2 new members since the last meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Visiting Author 2016- Hillary Morrissy reports that Lisa Graff will be visiting at a cost of \$2500 a day for three days, the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before conferences begin. The PTA is seeking to bring in more current authors by increasing our budget from approximately \$6000 to \$8500. Lisa Graff's titles were at our fall book sale, including one title prominently featured on Cider Mill Favorites table. There will be a book club facilitated by the PTA this fall in order to get students excited about her visit.
- Spring Book Fair- Hillary Morrissy reports that a first annual spring book fair will take place during school hours May 23-27 in the hallway outside the library. The goal of this book fair is to get one book in every student's hand to kick off summer reading.
- Gifts & Grants- Carolyn Lyon reports that a grant has been submitted regarding combination water fountain/bottle filling station. She will obtain more information regarding installation and maintenance costs for the next meeting. The unit is \$1500.
Cheryl Ryder presents a grant request to support an interdisciplinary program at school involving the language, art and music departments as well as a whole school event featuring a new book written by Susan Hood, wife of our French teacher. The book features the Recycled Children's Orchestra of Paraguay. The request for \$300 is for the purchase of the books in both English and Spanish for the library and the language department and money towards materials for a bulletin board in the hall highlighting the program. Nicola Davies makes a motion to approve the grant of up to \$300. Hillary Morrissy seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am