

## **Cider Mill PTA Meeting Minutes**

### **November 12, 2019**

#### Attendees:

Kevin Smith, Carolyn Lyon, Meghan Russo, Lauren Catalano, Katie Froehlich, Kara Berghaus, Manisha Patel, Michelle Krupa, Sabeth Albert, Amanda Patania, Danielle Bottinger, Lisa Smith, Jennifer Malloy, Jen Bell

1. Call to order, 9:18am
2. Welcome by Carolyn Lyon and Meghan Russo
  - LLC looks fantastic, comfy and bright spaces
  - Thank you to the Art teachers for a wonderful Tiles & Treats event
  - Thank you Hospitality Committee for the lovely Veterans' Day reception
  - Thank you to School Administration for their agility in getting the Halloween parade done indoors! Electronic tickets and indoor marching worked well.
  - Fun Nights - Wilton DJ will entertain 3rd and 4th grade, plus possible additions like inflatables (TBC); 5th grade March 21st at YMCA
  - Indoor Recess Committee seeking donations - games, supplies, as well as storage units (flexible/movable) - please contact Chandra Ring
  - School Messenger challenges continue to persist. Will be leveraging classroom parent network for communication
3. PTA Teacher Representatives Report (Ms. Katie Froehlich)
  - Thank you for the grant reimbursement, support for Fall Into Reading, and 5th grade Brain Challenge
  - Someday Wishes Program - one house per week, in each house a student, teacher, or class' wish is granted
  - 4th Grade curriculum spotlight - Biomimicry Unit - kids learning that nature can sometimes be our best source for solutions, using engineering and design models to create inventions/prototypes
4. Principal's Report (Ms. Lauren Catalano )
  - Half day conference days upcoming - Nov 21st, 22nd, 25th & 26th
  - Turkey Trot rescheduled to Nov 15. If bad weather interferes on Friday, it will be moved to the Spring
  - "Emotions Matter" brochures distributed from the Yale Center. Adopting RULER and building this social/emotional initiative into everyday curriculum - every class has their own charter. Multiple tools being incorporated to help drive emotional regulation and empower the kids to bring their best self. More information to come for parent/family training & home charter building.
5. Officer Reports:
  - Treasurer's Report by Manisha Patel
    - Revenue/Fundraising
      - Walkathon Fundraiser: \$19K donations, \$5K costs
      - Spirit Wear: \$5K to-date
      - Fall Book Fair: "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book sales \$900
      - Mabels Labels / Amazon Smiles: \$140
    - Expenses/Programs and Admin
      - Enrichment Programs: 5th grade Brain Challenge + Tiles & Treats + Outdoor Learning Garden + Fall Into Reading Program + School Supplies: \$5K
      - Admin expenses: \$540

- Cash balance - total \$48K - \$26K in checking account for operations, \$22K in money market account for reserve (1 year operations)

Membership Report by Julie Fowler

- 320 Parent / 22 Teacher, 342 total

Secretary's Report by Jen Bell

- Shared minutes from 10/8/19. Carolyn made a motion for approval. Seconded by Tammy. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

SEPTA (Kara Berghaus)

- Next meeting Nov 20 at Comstock 4pm
- Working to support all the PTA's and their events to support and drive further inclusivity - social/emotional learning, transition (high school to beyond), literacy
- Spring Bee Kind Initiative coming
- Genesis - our alternative school program - working to fundraise

Turkey Trot (Amanda Patania)

- Everything ready for Friday. Volunteers still needed - please bring cups and/or water

Hospitality (Sabeth Albert)

- Veteran's Day after the Assembly (Nov 11) - great turnout and such a special day
- Next event, Teacher/Staff Holiday Luncheon (Dec 11) - will need parent help and donation

Book Fair (Danielle Bottinger)

- Scholastic Fair - tied to conference days Nov 21/22, 25/26, 7am-3:30pm
- Teacher wish lists and raffle. Book Fairy will come to grant \$10 gift certificates
- E-wallet - allows parents to set up digital account for book fair only
- Sign-up Genius being used for volunteers - please join us!

WYC (Vanessa Elias)

- Resilience Formula - TOMORROW at the Wilton Library (online registration)

Zero Waste (Tammy Thornton)

- Great efforts made during Zero Waste Week! Thank you!
- Recycling & Composting Do's & Don'ts coming

7. Special Guest, Dr. Kevin Smith, Superintendent

- Two Big Ideas or Themes
  - We want our kids to be great people - this is why we are focused on social/emotional learning, emotional regulation, knowing how to deal with ambiguity
  - We want our kids to be prepared to go out in the world - not just the world as we may see it today, but imagine how the world is changing and how technology has/will change what the world will be
- District Vision and Mission - development of "Portrait of a Graduate"

8. Meeting ended at 10:35am

Date of next PTA General Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 9:15am