

PTA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 18, 2014
9:15 a.m.

Attendees: Lisa Smith, Lisa Finn, Nicola Davies, Kristen Schestag, Ginna Yerrall, Carolyn Lym, Dr. Jen Mitchell, Kristin Baldwin, Maria Miranda Koutsoukos, Vanessa Elias, Jacqueline Jackson, Sharon Kress, Cecilia Gergano, Stacy Hirsch-Meltzer, Christine Costello, Deb DeFeo, Jennifer Acerra-Markey

Lisa Smith called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Principals' report

Dr. Mitchell: Working on scheduling and co-teaching and adding more spelling enrichment. Right now, a huge challenge is not enough transition time for classes.

b. New SafeMeasures: a new process lead by kids; a 1st skype session to be held with all principals. Will develop design teams and create a team of students. See the attached brochure for more information.

c. Looking for interest in a Book Club for parents/teachers with an online component. Specifically the Mindset book by Carol Dweck. Attached is an article from NY Magazine in 2007 [How Not to Talk to Your Kids Article](#). Also has a Powerpoint presentation by Susan Baurfeld.

d. Enrichment: Lisa Perry to start Parent Advisory Board; brainstorm to add afterschool activities; will send an email out for participation.

President's Report

Focus groups with Kevin Smith, the BOE Superintendent, are ongoing. Several items up for vote:

1. **New Teacher Grants** – total of 8 new teachers, suggested \$200 per teacher for covering new teacher expenses/supplies which is the same as prior years. Lisa Smith motioned to approve the \$1600 for the new teacher grants. Ginna Yerrall seconded the motion. Motion passed by PTA. The Expense Report is posted on the CM PTA website for the new teachers to complete and send to Kristen Schestag.
2. **Book Fair Budget** – request to increase the budget by \$50 to \$300 for a scavenger hunt. Lisa Smith motioned, Jen Markey seconded the motion. Motion passed by PTA.
3. **Energy Breaks/Brain Breaks** – A proposal to provide energy break training to all teachers and gym teachers. \$1,600 to cover the training (in groups of 4/5 teachers). Gym teachers will lead the training going forward (after the initial training). The training sessions would run 30 minutes for a total of 10 groups or 5 hours. The training would begin in January 2015. It would be built into the schedule. The breaks would take place daily for 5/10 minutes in each the mornings and afternoons. Lisa made the motion, Christine Costello seconded the motion. The motion passed for the \$1,600.

Turkey Trot

39th Annual Turkey Trot run by Christine Costello. Its voluntary participation, suggested donation of \$2 a student. Jim Cook started the tradition. The Trot raised \$5,675.30 for the Wilton Food Pantry this year.

Teacher Representative

Kristen Baldwin, the teacher representative, thanked the PTA for the Halloween help and is looking forward to the book fair.

Gifts and Grants

Carolyn Lyon will have a new application by 11/19. Submission for the gifts & grants will run from January to April. Must be submitted 2 weeks before the PTA meeting to be voted on.

Treasurer's Report

The Cash Flow shows a current balance of \$30,701.82. Spiritwear sales are down for the year at \$1,004.

Secretary's Report

Kristen Schestag took over as temporary secretary for today's meeting. Made an announcement for everyone to sign in (sheet in back) for every meeting. Kristen Schestag motioned to approve the October minutes, Carolyn seconded, minutes were approved.

Box Tops

Jen Markey is leading the Box Top fundraiser. Submitted for \$645 in October. The check is usually issued in December directly to CM. The second round is submitted in April. Thinking of having a Box Top Blitz beginning in January and running through March. 1 class in every grade can win a homework pass. Will request SAG to make posters. Maria can send out an email to recruit room parents to collect/count and submit the boxtops to Jen. Suggest the recruits to gather in groups of 10 and trim.

Book Fair

Will be held during conferences and in the cafeteria this year. Will also hold the first ever night hours on Friday from 6p to 8p. A contest will be held for the most books purchased in each class.

Hospitality

Ginna leading hospitality. Teacher Holiday Brunch is set for Tuesday, December 9th at 11 a.m. Will put in Hot Cider on 11/30 to get donations of food.

Veterans Day had 87 people with spouses and children/grandchildren. Suggestions for keeping better track of all attendees to get proper amount of food in the beginning. Had to run out in the middle to get more food.

Misc.

Edline has a link to CT School Closings, also can go on NBC Connecticut and sign up for alerts.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.