

APPROVED MINUTES

Cider Mill PTA- General Membership Meeting October 20, 2015

Attendees: Nicola Davies, Gretchen Jeanes, Meire Mouracade, Hillary Morrissy, Maria Koutsoukos, Lisa Finn, Sharon Kress, Ginna Yerrall, Jen Acerra-Markey, Lauren Catalano, Kristin Baldwin, Jennifer Mitchell, Yim Y. Lai, Laura Rowley, Amy Gettler, Jamie Lee, Andrea Bates, Jackie Shaw, Vanessa Elias, Carolyn Lyon, Jacqueline Jackson, Michelle Tarantino, Tara Raniolo, Christine Costello.

1. Meeting convened at 9:15am. Quorum of members are present.
2. Welcome by Nicola Davies, PTA President.
3. **Officer Reports**

President's Report: Two 3rd graders raised an additional \$423 for the walkathon by holding a raffle that they organized on their own initiative.

Chairs are still needed for 5th grade Great Books and 4th grade Fun Night.

It was determined by Dr. Mitchell to change the solicitation for teacher gift donations by Room Reps to allow this to be done twice a year.

There will be a meeting about the use of technology in the Wilton schools the morning of 11/10 at Middlebrook and the evening of 11/11 at Cider Mill.

From 11/16-11/20 there is a "no idling" initiative, brief discussion of ways to communicate this to the parents in the pick-up line.

WEF will not be organizing a read aloud day at Cider Mill this year.

Brief discussion of inadequate number of parent volunteers recruited to participate with the River Study program this year. Discussion on possible reasons for this and proposal to recruit volunteers via an email sent via the school to all 5th grade parents next year.

Treasurer's Report: Monthly report distributed to members present Walkathon raised 33k with 4k in expenses. \$4400 raised by membership dues, \$2400 paid in state dues. Spirit Wear \$7400 sold thus far, \$6800 in expenses, with the expectation of selling more. \$5700 spent for visiting author. Gifts & Grants gave 19k for ipads and chrome books at the end of the last school year.

Membership Report: 452 members currently (up from 371 total for last school year) including 40 teachers. 377 families (up from 308 families total for last year). Reminder that we have over 800 families. In addition to standard membership dues, PTA has received an additional \$395 in donations.

Fundraising: Thank you to the chaperones that helped at Walkathon. 33k was raised with an 86% participation rate.

Secretary's Report: The Executive Board decided to post clearly labeled "Draft" versions of PTA meeting minutes within 48-72 hrs of the meeting taking place. This will allow parents who are interested to review what took place rather than have to wait for the next PTA meeting for their approval.

Motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2015 made by Hillary Morrissy. All in favor. Motion approved.

5. North Side Swings.

Presentation by Fourth graders Elizabeth, Phoebe and Eva. They have a proposal to raise money for new playground equipment. They will be hosting a bake sale on Election Day at Cider Mill to raise money.

6. PTA Teacher Representative Report

Officer's Reports paused for Teacher Rep. Kristin Baldwin.

Thanks for the photo day help and for walkathon, teachers are being asked for suggestions for Book Fair titles, thank you for the help cutting for Words Their Way. Thank you for ating help.

Copying support is needed and discussion of how notice will be given.

Gifts & Grants reminds that applications will be due 2 weeks prior to the November meeting so that there is sufficient time for the Board to review them.

7. Principal's Report

Discussion of the lateness of the Open Houses this year due to a conflict with another school. This will not be the case next year, but it will be after the first two weeks of school. Open Houses must continue to be by House not by grade level. Assistant Principal Catalano reports that the teacher's would prefer a Thursday. Thank you for the Walkathon and 3 Chrome Book Carts from WEF. There will be new Enrichment clubs: Word Masters, Helping Hands, Geography & History Bee, clay & painting, and a TV studio that is being built in a section of the library. Math night is this week. Dr. Chuck Smith (Assistant Superintendent will host a discussion in November called Back to the Future to discuss the future of Wilton Schools and how to get there. And there will be a 2nd evening event to discuss the Common Core. Question to Dr. Mitchell regarding curriculum differences between the houses-- there will be a review of curriculum beginning this spring.

Discussion of the brevity of the lunch period. Popular lunches mean that students near the end of the line can be waiting 10 minutes to buy lunch. Due to the limitations of one cafeteria, it is not possible to extend the time available for lunch - 6 lunch waves have to be accommodated each day.

8. Bylaw Vote

Amendments to the bylaws were presented at the September 8th meeting. A consultation period of 30 days is required before a vote to accept the new bylaws can be taken. Motion to approve the new Bylaws was made by Laura Rowley. All in favor. Bylaws approved.

9. Committee Reports

Turkey Trot: C. Costello reports will take place Nov. 12, rain date Nov. 15, to benefit social services. Thus far participation is light. Form available to download on edline. Reminder to dress warmly.

Photoday: S. Dorne by H. Morrissy reports retake day is Oct 29-- more detailed information was in the last issue of the Hot Cider.

Box Tops: J. Acerra-Markey reports next submission is in November.

5th Grade River Study: G. Yerrall reports great weather so far. Need more volunteers/timing of asking for volunteers.

5th Grade Enrichment: L. Cawley and C. Carbonier by H. Morrissy reports the committee has secured 3 performers, one for each grade. 5th graders were recently entertained by "Brain Challenge," 3rd grade will enjoy a presentation by Native American Clint Charter in November, and 4th grade will have "Poetry in Motion" in spring.

Gifts & Grants: C. Lyon reports that the application will soon be posted online. Applications can be submitted by teachers and parents. Applications need to be submitted much earlier. Last year's June submissions made it very difficult to review and vote on applications.

Odyssey of the Mind: N. Davies reports a meeting was held which was attended by over 40 parents. There are now 5 different teams with coaches.

12. Additional/New Business

Pizza & Paint Night: N. Davies presents idea from art teacher Caroline Duggan. Proposal to have an art night with parents and children. Cost of materials and pizza would be covered by charging a \$10 participation fee. Idea well received, tabled until November meeting when more details will be available.

13. Meeting adjourned at 10:33am.

Minutes approved at January 12th 2016 PTA Meeting