

Cider Mill PTA Meeting Minutes January 15th, 2019

Attendees:

Carolyn Lyon, Sabeth Albert, Amanda Patania, Catherine O'Keefe, Jackie Couch, Michelle Krupa, Amanda Mitchell, Cheryll Ryder, Diane Strickrodt, Ritu Malik, Vanessa Elias, Lisa Finn, Maria Corti

1. Meeting convened at 9:15am
2. Welcome by Amanda Patania and Carolyn Lyon

Carolyn Lyon made a proposal to co-sponsor Scott Driscoll Internet Safety Parent Presentation with Middlebrook. Presentation will be on April 1st, 2019 and we have been asked to cover \$600 (half). The PTA has already paid for the 5th Graders presentation.

Carolyn Lyon made a motion to cover the \$600 for Parent Presentation. Amanda Patania seconded the vote. Motion passed, no one opposed.

- Vanessa Elias asked that he come prepared with a presentation that is more engaging and balances positivity as he can be an alarmist. PTA board agreed to have discussion with him in regard to this.

The Turnover Shop in Wilton has generously donated \$11,500 to each WPS PTA, however they split the donation into 4, rather than 5, which excluded our newly formed SEPTA.

Carolyn Lyon made a motion to donate \$2300 of our donation to the SEPTA. Jackie Couch seconded the motion. Motion passed, no one opposed.

Thank you to the Hospitality Committee for their Holiday Staff Luncheon held in the LLC, the Bingo Committee for another successful Bingo Night, and the Reflections Competition Committee for their work. All visual pieces have been hung in the hallway outside the cafeteria and an email was sent out to the CM families announcing the winners of each category.

Fun Nights: Thank you to the 5th Grade parents for stepping up in short time to host 5th Grade Fun Night at the YMCA. 3rd and 4th Grade Fun Nights will be hosted by the Westchester Circus Group this year.

3. Principal's Report- Catherine O'Keefe on behalf of Dr. Jennifer Falcone

Thank you in advance to the parents coordinating Fun Nights and volunteering. Happy to hear about the circus group act.

Reading Rocks deadline has approached and Dress Like a Rockstar will be on Friday. Thank you to all that are participating.

New Initiative: Lead by Alyssa Peterson, the school will start collecting bottle caps and lids to be recycled into seating for CM school. A flyer will be sent home to parents and collection bins will be setup in each house.

On 1/22/19 MAP testing will begin as well as a few school field trips. We have asked teachers to be flexible in the testing, so that students can enjoy their field trips.

On 2/6/19 NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) will take place with 50 pre-selected 4th Graders. A letter will be sent home to parents of the randomly selected student to opt-in/out.

The testing will have a 2-hour block to accommodate setup, instructions, and testing. 4th and 5th

grade lunches will be swapped that day to accommodate the testing. Will be done on Chromebooks and will either be Math or ELA focused.

On 3/22/19 WEF will be hosting "Are you Smarter Than a 5th Graders?". This year they are moving it to Middlebrook (smaller venue) and will be having High School students participating rather than adults. Parents will be getting notification next week.

- Vanessa Elias asked What is the recess policy based on weather? Kids had a day of indoor recess that didn't seem warranted based on the outdoor temperature. Catherine O'Keefe responded that it is a combination of Actual Temperature and the Wind Chill. They always plan to go outside, however need to follow State of CT guidelines. Will talk with Dr. Falcone to send clarification out to parents.
- Vanessa Elias asked if there was going to be any changes going forward with recess time and purposeful play as we are trying to make a shift towards giving our children more of this time. Carolyn Lyon added that the After School Free Play session is filled mostly with 3rd and 4th graders and a video was posted on the school Twitter feed showing them all having a great time. Ms. Corti, Ms. Skroubelos, and Ms. Arcuri have been supervising the program.

4. PTA Teacher Representative- Cheryll Ryder

Thank you for the staff luncheon. The teachers are always so appreciative! Our winter concerts are coming up in January and February. Students will perform during the day for their peers and then in the evening for parents. On February 13th, the 5th Grade Band will perform and we like to invite all 4th graders to observe so they can get an idea of what band entails in case they want to try next year.

A great field trip coming up for our 4th graders is to the Zelnor Gallery at WHS to watch Chip Gawle and his West Conn. students perform. He was a music instructor at WHS.

OFFICER REPORTS

5. Treasurer Report- Lisa Finn

- Financial Statements as of 1/10/19 provided
- Income:
 - MobileArq paid us Membership dues and donations through 11/15/18
 - We paid CT State PTA dues - \$5.50 per member thru 11/15/18 - \$1,936
 - Fall book fair - net profit of \$5,344
 - Turnover Shop donation - \$11,500
 - Photo Day - \$4,233 profit
- Expenses:
 - 5th grade yearbook - collecting \$ for ads via PayPal; pay Lifetouch in Spring
 - Fun Nights - deposits paid for 3rd/4th grades; 5th grade 1/26 will pay at event, collecting \$10 per student via PayPal
 - Grants Paid
 - Start up - \$1800 (6 new teachers); \$11,225 (68 total; 31 classroom)
 - Hospitality - paid for holiday lunch expenses
- Cash balance - total \$63.7K
 - \$41,897 in operating account
 - \$21,836 in reserve account (1 year operations)

6. Membership Report- Carolyn Lyon on behalf of Alex Frisbee

As of January 13, 2019, we have a total of 389 members (11 new since November). 353 parents and community members, 36 teachers. 353 parent members=293 families (60 family, 233 single). At this time last year, we had 439 members so we are behind 50 members. Hard to decipher the decline because families may differ based on size.

7. Fundraising Report- Shannon MacDonald

We have a Little Pub dinner night planned for 2/11/19. 20% of your bill will be donated to CM PTA. New York Yankees game is in the works. Will host a family day sometime in May. Tickets will be limited.

8. Secretary Report- Jackie Couch

Approval of November 2018 meeting minutes. Jackie Couch made the motion. Amanda Mitchell seconded. Motion passed, no one opposed.

Amend the minutes to note that Lisa Finn was not in attendance, however she provided the Treasurer report via email.

9. Parent at Large- Ritu Malik

Math Curriculum: BOE website has a very detailed recommendation from the committee based on research survey. They are making changes and would like parent feedback.

Auschwitz initiative by the Wilton Library- they are looking at books appropriate for all ages to educate on the Holocaust. They will have survivor artists performing at the library.

Budget: Superintendent Kevin Smith came in under budget. ON 1/24/19, he will have a Superintendent's Meeting and on 3/25/19 will be the BOF hearing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. Hospitality Report- Sabeth Albert

Next event will be the Bus Driver's Breakfast on 2/7/19 at Comstock

11. Gifts and Grants- Michelle Krupa

Cider Mill had approved and piloted a SPED program at the beginning of the year and now we have more interest in the program. The SEPTA has decided to step in and cover the cost of purchasing more materials. Andrea Leonardi will purchase the materials.

Having a hard time getting teachers to get reimbursed for their start-up grant money. I have given them every way possible to send in receipts and they just don't send them in.

12. SEPTA- Michelle Krupa on behalf of Rosalie Witt

Membership Update

- 53 members as of yesterday
- Half of this number represents WPS staff and/or administration

Web Site/ FB Page

- 76 followers
- 75 likes/13 new page likes

Staff survey still open at this time

- Parent Survey to go out in the coming weeks

Meeting with PTA presidents

- Cider Mill Houses asking for Orten Gillingham materials
- Andrea said to send these requests to her office and save SEPTA money for innovative ideas
- Teachers need to fill out a specific form to get the request in and ordered. Please be in touch with Andrea or her office/support staff.

Budget – SETPA is supporting Andrea’s proposal for a Secondary Coordinator of Special Education and Alternative High School.

- Encouraging families to attend BOE meetings and/or write letters in support.

Committees: Need volunteers to support our work!!

1. Pre-Referral and Pre-School/ New Family Outreach
2. Strategic Planning
3. Community Outreach and Awareness
4. Membership/ Fundraising
 1. Hoping to plan a social event at White Barn/Ambler Farm for April 4th
5. School Representatives

13. Wilton Youth Council- Vanessa Elias

The Race to Nowhere is available on Amazon and iTunes. Beyond Measure, which is the follow-up to RTN will be shown on 2/4/19 at Middlebrook Auditorium

Meeting ended at 9:45am