

APPROVED MINUTES

Cider Mill PTA – General Membership Meeting September 8, 2015

Attendees: Nicola Davies, Lisa Finn, Gretchen Jeanes, Hillary Morrissy, Michelle Tarantino, Andrea Bates, Cathy Ratcliffe, Sarah McCall, Jackie Shaw, Elizabeth McKay, Ginna Yerrall, Annemarie Aronowitz, Barbara Massey Bear, Maria Miranda Koutsoutos, Jennifer Acerra-Markey, Jamie Lee, Vanessa Corporrino, Sharon Stenger, Carolyn Lyon, Kathleen Royle, Catherine O'Keefe, Shirin Dorne, Janel Downs, Monica Shaw, Laura Rowley, Maryjane Reis, Yim Lai, Kristin Baldwin, Jane Dooley, Christine Burrows, Rosemary Gimby.

1. Meeting convened at 9.15am
2. Welcome by Nicola Davies, PTA President and introductions of the Executive Board.
3. Introduction of Michelle Tarantino for position of Treasurer Motion by Nicola Davies to vote for the new treasurer Motion seconded by Gretchen Jeanes. All in favor. Treasurer elected.
4. **Officer Reports**

President's Report: thanks those who volunteered their time before the start of school to organize school supplies, PTA website, spirit wear, help at open house and walkathon.

Treasurer's Report: review of expected revenue and expenses for this year's upcoming budget. \$300 increase in the Hospitality budget was requested, and so was \$220 to cover website hosting costs.

Motion to approve the 2015-16 Cider Mill PTA Budget by Nicola Davies Motion seconded by Hillary Morrissy. All in favor. Budget is passed.

Membership Report: currently 241 members (223 parents/212 families/18 teachers. \$110 donation. We are well ahead of last year's figures. (Last year we had 300 family members). Directories will be available in time for the first Open House.

Fundraising Report: have received 142 donations towards the Walkathon.

Secretary's Report: Last two PTA meetings of the 2014-15 school year need to be approved. Copies of those minutes are available in the room for review and on the website.

Motion to approve minutes of May 22, 2105 by Hillary Morrissy. Motion seconded by Lisa Finn. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Motion to approve minutes of May 28, 2015 by Hillary Morrissy. Motion seconded by Nicola Davies.

All in favor. Minutes approved.

5. **Principal's Report**

Discussion of Helping Hands student group, plans to merge it with SAG (Student Advisory Group)

New Mission Statement by Kevin Smith on the CM Edline website New Asst. Principal Lauren Catalano begins work at Cider Mill on September 21st

October 6 is the Brain Challenge for 5th graders

October 14 is Literacy night and October 21 is Math night, encourages parents to attend the evening events because the teachers are present, unlike the daytime presentations

September 16-18 is visiting author. Discussion of how they are obtained.

Nicola Davies adds that on 9/22 and 9/24 the banners for walkathon will be made in the cafeteria with the assistance of the art teachers, volunteers will be sought through Hot Cider and Social media.

6. **PTA Teacher Representative Report**

Kristen Baldwin thanks the PTA for the Open House breakfast. School kits went well, were liked by the students, discussion of new teacher start-up grants.

7. **Committee Reports**

Nominations: Open positions, one chairperson for 4th grade fun night, 4th grade world languages liaison, Great Books coordinator for 3rd and 5th grade.

Special Ed.: Parents Night Out 6:30-8:30pm on September 18 at the Wilton Library.

School Supplies: Jackie Shaw reports that the kits provided through School Kits (division of Staples) and organized as a fundraiser, raised \$1450.73. This year 561 kits were ordered versus 477 last year. Discussion of continuing using School Kits which requires a contract, or Edukit (used by MD) which does not.

Photo Day: Shirin Dorne reports photo day is September 10 and a new coordinator will be needed next year. Please reach out to Shirin if you are interested in finding out more.

Student Directory : Nicola Davies reports that despite an extensive search, this position remains unfilled. The directory was produced by her this year. A new chairperson must be identified by the end of the school year, or there will not be a paper directory next year. Discussion of moving towards an on line app such as MobileArq used by Westport School district.

8. **Additional/New Business**

Odyssey of the Mind: if CM is interested there is a \$135 registration fee due by October 1, 2015 for up to 15 teams. Discussion of Odyssey of the Mind process by Catherine O'Keefe-- children would work in teams of 7 with one coach volunteer.

Motion by Nicola Davies to approve \$135 expenditure for registration. Motion Seconded by Ginna Yerrall. All in favor. Expenditure approved.

Bylaw revision: Discussion by Nicola Davies that by laws need to be reviewed every three years and that current bylaws are being revised. New version is available on the PTA website, members are invited to read them and send comments to her. Amendments will be voted on at the next PTA meeting in October.

Timing and content of future meetings: Discussion of future PTA meetings being much more informational and less business oriented. Would like parent suggestions of topics they would be interested in hearing about at future meetings.

9. **Meeting adjourned at 10:35am.**