

Cider Mill PTA Meeting
May 10th, 2016
Draft Minutes

In Attendance: Hillary Morrissy, Ginna Yerrall, Lisa Finn, Jen Acerra-Markey, Tara Snow, Maria Miranda Koutsoukos, Yim Lai, Jamie Lee, Nicola Davies, Jen Miranel, Carolyn Lyon, Shirin Dorne, Sharon Kress, Kristin Baldwin, Mary Jane Reis, Vanessa Elias, Meire Mouracades, Annemarie Aronowitz, Gretchen Jeanes, Mary Jones, Rosemarie Gimby, Jennifer Mitchell.

Welcome and President's Report by Nicola Davies.

Thank you to the hospitality committee for their hard work in organizing Teacher Appreciation Week.

Secretary's Report by Hillary Morrissy.

Motion by Hillary Morrissy to approve and adopt the draft minutes from the April 2016 meeting as the formal minutes. Motion seconded by Jen Accerra-Markey. All in favor. Motion approved.

Teacher Representative Report by Kristin Baldwin.

Thank you very much for all of the events of Teacher Appreciation Week. Closing house dates will be posted and tickets sent home to make entry faster into the school.

Principal's Report by Dr. Jennifer Mitchell.

At the last meeting, it was brought up that there is a lack of communication from the Music Department and a 5th grade concert is wanted by parents. It is too late this year but something we will consider for next year. There will be a lottery because class numbers per house will be changing. There will be an additional 5th grade class, changing class size average to 23.8. First, an email will go out requesting volunteers from Belden Hill to move houses, if no volunteers, then there will be a lottery. Belden Hill 3rd grade will change from 4 teachers to 3. Enrollment projections seem to indicate 3 sections in each house by grade in the future.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer by Nicola Davies for Michelle Tarantino. After reviewing the budget, we have approximately 47K to use for gifts and grants.

Membership by Lisa Finn. Teacher membership is low, 4 in 3rd grade, 5 in 4th, 6 in 5th. However, many specials instructors have joined, bringing overall teacher memberships to 51. Kristin Baldwin reports that written forms are preferable with teachers. 482 total members.

Fundraising Report by Nicola Davies for Gretchen Jeanes. Helping Hands assisted in selecting the theme for this fall's Walkathon. It will be "Cider Zone: Kids at Walk" and feature the new school mascot being selected this Thursday.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality by Ginna Yerrall.

We had a great week, staff was very appreciative. Feedback was that teachers prefer the parent made bag lunches over the Village Market provided bags. Hospitality has been asked to fund a food truck for all of the staff at the end of school but will need an additional \$1500. Motion by Nicola Davies for an additional \$1500 for the hospitality budget to fund a food truck. Seconded by Gretchen Jeanes. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Gifts & Grants by Carolyn Lyon.

#1 Grant request from Dr. Mitchell for materials for the Flexible Learning Space which will be in a tech lab adjacent to the library and will eventually be a part of the Learning Commons. Dr. Mitchell will purchase furniture from budget money this year. Items will be used in WIN block and after school programs. Three sources for the funding-- school budget, PTA and WEF or Continuing Ed. Motion to approve a grant of \$22,000 made by Hillary Springel. Seconded by Tara Snow. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

#2 Teacher Grants-- to give each teacher, including specials and Sp. Ed., up to \$100 to be reimbursed for items they personally purchased for their classrooms. Fifty teachers, \$5000 possible in reimbursement although historically not all teachers submit a reimbursement request. Needs to be submitted by 5/27, can be a receipt for any time during the school year. Some discussion of setting dates earlier next year. Motion to approve Teacher Grants made by Nicola Davies. Seconded by Carolyn Lyon. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

#3 Playground Equipment \$600. New equipment has been priced to improve both playgrounds. Funds in the amount of \$2400 were raised from a bake sale this fall, \$1500 from the school budget with a shortfall of \$600. Motion to approve grant for Playground Equipment made by Nicola Davies. Seconded by Jen Acerra-Markey. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

#4 Water Fountain/Bottle Refilling Stations \$2499-- Request for two to be installed in common areas outside the gym and the lunch room. Discussion of access to children who wish to refill between classes and at lunch. Motion to approve grant for two Water Fountain/Bottle Refilling Stations made by Carolyn Lyon. Seconded by Vanessa Elias. All in favor. Motion approved.

#5 Field Day \$500 request to cover purchase of face paint and tattoos. Discussion of the use of face paint and the possible need for parents to be notified in advance in order

to opt out. Discussion of letting children opt out on their own vs. not wanting to be different or left out. Determined that face paint would not be a viable option at Field Day. Grant request reduced to \$200 for misc expenses, excluding face paint, including but not limited to popsicles and temporary tattoos. Motion to approve Field Day grant of \$200 by Carolyn Lyon. Seconded by Nicola Davies. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

School Supplies:

Cost of the School Supply kits have gone up in general. A three ring binder was added, the huge three ring zip up binder removed, additional writing journal, and a request for the school for brand name items because there were concerns about quality, especially the pencils and dry erase markers. \$54 for 5th, \$70 for 4th, \$77 for 3rd.

Volunteer Coordinator:

For this upcoming year, the volunteer form will be electronic.

Field Days:

June 8 for 3rd, June 6 for 4th, June 1 for 5th. Rain days are a day later.

Election of officers to the Cider Mill PTA for 2016-17 school year.

Tara Snow announces nominations of Nicola Davies as President, Lisa Finn as VP of Membership, Gretchen Jeans and Melinda Smith as VPs of Fundraising, Carolyn Lyon as Secretary, Michelle Tarantino as Treasurer, Kim Hall as Parent at Large, Tara Snow for Nominating. Motion to approve the officers made by Tara Snow. Seconded by Jen Acerra-Markey. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Other Business:

Please consider joining the Wilton Youth Council. They recently sponsored a parent talk on opioid and heroin abuse and the first annual Color Run at Middlebrook. Check out the website at wiltonyouth.org

Ambler Farm is looking for volunteers for Ambler Farm Day on 9/25

Spec Ed. rep Mary Jane Reis encourages members to go to pabwilton.com to learn more about Top Inclusion Models (TIM) and a recent skit on bullying.