

Prospect Mill Elementary School PTA

Type of Meeting:

General Membership Meeting

Date: 1/28/20 Location: PMES Library

Attendees:

Sarah Penney, Danielle Spigler, Cailin Kehoe, Mandi Hubbard White
Lisa Rice, Colby Ruggiero, Laura Lenker, Virginia Faulkner, Emily Hale,
Tammy Webber, Karen Parsons, Kim Holmes, Tara Recor, Ashley Porter,
Rachel Williams, Sara Baker, Erin McCadden, Cindy Powell, Lorien Covelly,
Karen Jankowiak, Christy Lylo, Melissa Zorbaen



Meeting start: 7:12pm: Welcome and introductions of attendees

Attendance/Establish Quorum: Show of hands for PTA paid members (quorum met)

Approval of Minutes (November 20, 2019 general membership meeting)

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Danielle Spigler

SECOND: Virginia Faulkner

All in favor of approval of minutes (AYE vote) no nay votes; motion passes

VP Membership report: Danielle Spigler

We are ALMOST at our goal of 2% increase (465 members) -we are within 7 family memberships (approx. 14 people)! If you know anyone who has not joined, please invite them! We have Panda Perks discounts (upcoming -Sweethearts Dance!) We need to reach our numbers by mid February

Volunteer Recognition awards

Sandy Caldwell – exceptional Panda Pride!

Mickey Beser – Kids Bingo

Allison Sheldon – Newcomer award

Adrienne Horodowicz-Marquee

Debbie Smith & Lisa Santome -Kids Bingo

We are looking for a cleaner who is able to clean Pax ☺

Treasurer's Report: Mandi White

Kudos to all that went to Magerks – we received a check for close to \$600 (we budgeted \$200!)

Applebees was another HUGE success! The kids have a blast and it's an amazing fundraiser.

Checks continue to come in for Painless Giving (Box Tops, Shoparoo) -just received \$256 for Box Tops. Box Tops is ending February 19th.

Membership -we are in good shape but trying to hit our numbers; we pay \$4.25 per member to the state and \$0.50 to the county for dues;

Spiritwear is down but we didn't have America Education Week this year– we can try to push online.

Holiday Shoppe did very well; number on our report is flexible as we have to account for spending

Kids Bingo-was successful for the second year

There are some expenses that need to come out for field trips, Patriot Program and upcoming events.

Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit

President's Report: Sarah Penney

Thank you for coming out to support our events – we have a lot coming up and will need some support: Sweethearts Dance, Bingo, International Night, Rock Painting. Look for announcements on Facebook, email, etc.

Harford County PTA meeting this Thursday -all are welcome to join; different workshops

Big announcement is about our PLAYGROUND! Lisa Rice has been going after grants and applying on behalf of PMES PTA. There are two big grants that we are hoping for: Greater Bel Air Community Foundation (\$10-20K grant); We met with him today! Our other big grant is the Society of Italian American Businessmen. (2, \$25K grants) We are hoping for good things! We could use some people talking to the board of education (we are not receiving any money from county/state, parks department, etc.)

Hoping to do a Fifth Grade gift (bench); We are going to ask for donations (selling plaques) and send out another letter for corporate donations.

Power Point presentation showing the details, donation requests;

Suggestion from Ashley -put this out to families first and then corporate donations; put the partner' price higher for corporate donors;

Lisa Rice confirmed tax deductible item that can be written off.

Stickers are approximately 3x5 and customizable.

Question: What's happening with the 'old playground'? Mrs. Jankowiak reported it will remain unless it becomes a safety issue; Facilities and Risk Management have been contacted; The new playground will be added in the middle of the two newer playgrounds due to existing pathways and ADA regulations.

Recommendation: "Early Bird" price; prices go up at a certain point.

Secretary's Report: Cailin Kehoe

Nothing to report

Principal's Report: Mrs. Jankowiak

Mrs. Jankowiak and Mrs. Covelly thank the PTA for their hard work/ it has been a collective effort, but all of the organizing, collecting information and feedback is important an

Report Cards going out on the 7th

Panda Pride Assembly on the 14th

In the event your child tests positive for the flu, we are tracking the information. It is not at a concerning level for our school. Please let us know so Central Office can be notified by our nurse.

Mrs. Covelly will be sending a letter for testing Gr. 3, 4 and 5;
Cognitive Abilities Test for 2nd Grade Students all done online.

We look at what levels of service we may need to put in for students; lets the school look for support needs for special education or gifted and talented.

Please ensure you are sending in notes for absences within 3 days. If they are absent 10% of the time they are enrolled, they are 'chronically absent'. We are charged with having an attendance team. If you missed 20 days, you can be considered for retention, reviewed by the teams for

If you are following the board conversations and advocacy, lots of folks are advocating to Dr. Bulson; latest numbers \$22.4; We had a visit from Councilman Wagner, who visited John Archer and PMES. He said "I'm so enlightened, I'm actually overwhelmed". He expressed he know about the CSP program, about middle schools, about schools paying close to \$30K (and upward) per student;

Mrs. Jankowiak stated she relayed to Councilman Wagner that 25 in a kindergarten classroom is 'criminal' -it has to come down! It has nothing to due with economics, it has so much to do with engagement. Add any emotional or developmental delay and that is a tremendous task for a teacher in a room of 25. No one tells parents if your child is trashing a room, that is not typical and may need different interventions. Looking for people to provide good interventions, special educators at grade levels, the right resources for student needs. Mrs. Manolis is dedicated and working before school. The kids (and teachers) deserve to have help.

Teachers/Staff:

Nothing to report

Committee Chair Reports:

Holiday Shoppe: This was a great year. As soon as it's done we have to start shopping on discount. Much of our shopping for next year has been started. Sarah is looking for a chair/co-chair. It is tough for one person to chair, and it is a matter of multiple days (inventory, pricing, organizing products, purchasing, volunteers, day and night shoppe). Shadowing is the best way to learn the ropes. We look at all the 'good stores' and buy on clearance. Ashley offered to help at night; Laura is going to do inventory night at her house to get the bulk of the work done.

Leigh Kaminsky is chairing our Community Events: Santa Breakfast was great! and this one was a big win. Horizon Movies was another wonderful event; we are considering doing a second event; we have another spirit dine (Bamboo/Ritas) and Magerks night was a big success with sand art.

Kids Book and Candy Bingo -Cai's first year co-chairing the event with lots of nerves, but the event went well; Debbie Smith was a great co-chair, had the room organized, books ordered; reduced games from 20 to 15, as last year was a tad long, and we added 'door prizes' to keep kids interested and entertained.

Suggestion: Mrs. Powell suggested to bring back the PJs like last year.

Suggestion: Order from Pats Pizza (better pizza)

UPCOMING:

International Night -we are looking for any person that wants to host a table is welcome; Meredith Colburn is chairing this event. We are hoping to get representation from the 12 different languages spoken at Prospect Mill. Master Chang will present

Rock Painting in March; need volunteers the day of (Sarah Penney is chair);

Please let Mrs. Powell know so she can bring the leaf blower and clear out the leaves.

Sweethearts Dance; Dance is a fun night and an easy way to help. Friday February 21st; Invites printed and sent home with kids today. Tickets going on sale Monday, February 3rd. We typically sell out within 4 days. Considering we are at capacity at 400 people. We have a DJ and a large committee of helpers. Limited to 1-2 parents per student (due to fire codes); need a hand decorating day of. Sign up genius coming up.

Bingo! 3/20/20 -tickets on sale as soon as Sweethearts Dance sells out. We are looking for donations!

Yearbook -fifth grade cover art contest (33 students participated) HUGE thank you to Ms. Stewart who stayed late to help give students guidance on drawing pandas; Teachers voted but we have identified the winner. All pandas will appear in the yearbook. If you are not sure you ordered a yearbook, there is an icon that says 'check previous orders'

Teacher Appreciation -Laura Lenker hosted a meeting; luncheon March 27th; We need some help day of with set up around 10:30/11a; it is a half day for the kids; We are collecting donations; Staff appreciation week later in the year.

Paws for a Cause; Will replace "Jump Rope for Heart"; Ashley Porter will post a sign up genius

New Business: Are we still recycling ink cartridges? No

GUEST SPEAKER: Sara Baker: Be SMART Be Smart Program started by parents; Firearms are the second cause of death for children; Accidental death; firearm suicide; most injuries occur in home; 78% of shooters in schools obtain guns from home, relatives or friends. We want kids to group up happy/healthy; we have the right to make decisions about whether to have a gun in the home; If we can prevent one death or injury it is our responsibility to do so.

Secure all guns in home/vehicles

Model responsible behavior around guns

Ask about presence of unsecured guns in other homes

Recognize the risks of teen suicide

Tell your peers to be SMART

Use a cable lock, firearm safe or cable; ammunition always stored separately. There are now safes that require fingerprint;

Suggestion from Ashley: safe must be secured; if you drop the safe, the spring latch will pop open.

Nearly a quarter of parents are unaware their kids know where the guns are hidden/handle the gun; Gun safety training does not equate to less curiosity. Teach children to not touch guns (real or pretend) and to alert an adult. Approximately 4.6 million children live in a household with a loaded / unlocked gun. 17% of high school students have considered suicide in the past year; 41% have 'easy access' to a gun at home. Gun owners (military, law enforcement or hunting/outdoor groups) are modeling responsible gun safety.

BeSMARTforKids.org

Meeting wrap: 8:54pm

Minutes respectfully recorded by Cailin Kehoe, Secretary