

JR Briggs PTA Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2016

Welcome

- Sarah Dorsey opened the meeting at 6:00pm and it was attended by 8 members

Principal's Report

- Kindergarten registration is open. According to the town census there are only 42 kids in town ready for kindergarten. Please spread the word if you know of any families.
- We will be doing PARCC again, it is our only option. Then eventually it will be MCAS 2.0
- Budget discussion: not much to report yet, still waiting on Superintendent's proposal; we will have 1 retirement this year.
- ELL students are currently taking their standardized tests now.
- Current last day of school is Wednesday, June 15th, pending any snow days.

Secretary's Report

- Motion to approve the *PTA Meeting Minutes* for December 16, 2015; unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report

- Motion to approve the *Bank Reconciliation Report* was made and unanimously approved

Bingo Night Wrap up

- Fran Carrignan's presence was missed, as it would've been her last one at JRB. Her help in organizing was still greatly appreciated. Paula Kuehl chaired and updated on ordering an abundance of new Bingo cards.
- The suggestion to start to gear away from making the "fancy designs" on the boards was made. It's starting to get tricky for the younger kiddos to follow along. Should go back to doing standard, across/down/diagonal designs.
- Fantastic books donated by the teachers. Everyone walked away with a book. Great idea!
- Still struggling with sound system/microphone in the café. Maybe use Troy Berg's karaoke machine.
- A wonderful job by Mr. Cucchiara, Mr. Losordo, and Mrs. Cauldwell. Thank You!
- \$353 was raised that will be going right to the Sunshade fund.

Girls' Dance Update

- Have a husband & wife DJ duo from Lunenburg, she's a middle school teacher, so not worried about song lyrics
- Paula will look into verifying that all the Christmas lights work. Hoping to use more Christmas lights to alleviate the problem with the big lights in the gym
- The Peer Leaders will be there to help decorate
- The Photographer cancelled at the last minute before the fliers went out. Using a new photographer, a parent in the building, Veronika Patty. She will do the photos "at cost" and anything above cost will go to us
- We're trying out a "Giving Tree Theme," hoping to get donations of clothing to give to the nurse.
- There will be craft tables and a favor to give away: Wooden Heart Frames.
- Need to make coffee and punch
- 5 tables are needed for the lobby
- Emily Littlejohn has volunteered to take candid pictures throughout the night
- We seem to be doing ok on volunteers and offers for snack
- Currently have about 85 girls signed up to go but we usually get about 200, so expecting a lot more this week

Yearbook Update and Cover Winner

- We've collected 15 payments, 30 messages, & 55 baby pictures (of 5th graders,) but hoping for more. Still need to get the word out
- Nobody has been uploading candid photos to the website. Maybe send the link out to parents? Let them know when the deadline is, but we really need more.
- Teacher's voted on the yearbooks covers. Front cover winner: Jada Sibley from 5T, Back cover winner: Lydia Kriedler from 5C

Bunny Breakfast Update

- Scheduled for March 19th in conjunction with Jana Harrison and The Young Children's Festival
- Myriah will work on over the February break
- Need to email Dennis to discuss food
- Holly offered to do the fliers
- Paula offered to be in charge of the flower table
- We'd like to have a logo wear table and sell off our inventory at last year's prices. No additional orders will be taken
- Need to contact the peer leaders for assistance
- Andrea will put up a sign up sheet to get teachers to help, many of them like to serve the food at this event or work the ticket table

Logowear Discussion

- Seemed to have some problems with a few orders, after the fact
- Should we stick with them or ask some local places for proposals?
- They appeared to be on a "time crunch" with the approaching holiday, not sure if that caused some of the issues?
- They seem to be working with us to rectify the mistakes
- We were overcharged for all of the hooded sweatshirts, which they are in the process of rectifying
- NEPA is a place we've used in the past. They already have our moose logo.
- Is anyone interested in searching out different companies?
- We're hoping to have a table at the Bunny Breakfast to try to sell off our inventory; we don't recommend using any companies or doing any orders where we need to pre-order our stock. We get stuck "sitting on it" for too long.

Spring Event Finalizations

- Boys' Event: April 29th, Pirate Theme: Use a treasure map (inspiredroom.net) Sarah Dorsey to help, but still hoping to find a chair for this event
- Bike Rodeo: Need to touch base with Michelle Phyfe still
- Bags to School: Need to touch base with Natalie Nelson

Supporting Mrs. Gusek

- Per the MA PTA we cannot make a direct donation to her or her Gofundme page
- We can host an event to raise money
- We can possibly donate to the Hockey Benefit that is already in place: April 2nd at Cushing Academy. A beach cart and "Summer Escape" idea was presented. Ask families to donate to it and include it as a raffle at the event. Sarah Dorsey to look into sending home a ½ sheet flyer in the backpacks to ask for donations.
- A motion was made and unanimously accepted to allot \$200 to the "Summer Escape," if we don't get enough donations from families.
- Also, the possibility of % off night at The Tavern? Andrea to check with Amy Provost, Myriah to possibly call and speak to someone

Open Forum

- PTA conference April 12th in Randolph, any interest in anyone going? We could sponsor 2 spots, but you'd have to pay for the hotel yourself
- Still discussing spring fundraisers: Canvas painting night (parent/child, Sarah to research and see if we can have it outside?) Also, need to talk to Greg Bennett about possible skating party or golf party.
- Babysitting kids for a parents' night out? Maybe table this idea to next year, around the holidays
- Continuously looking for donations from companies: Emily to write letters and try to generate more donations and gift cards. Also, need to send the templates to JRB email

The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.