



Dunellen PTO



PTO Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2017

Time: 7:09pm

Attendance:

Pam Vail, President
Silke Carlson, Co-Vice President, Committee Chair
Nicole Moore, Co-Vice President, Grade Level Oversight
Kelli Castro, Correspondence Secretary

Absent: Brittany Meyer, Recording Secretary
Monique Phua, Treasurer

Teachers in Attendance: None

Board Members in Attendance: None

Welcome/Call to Order: Pam: Thank you for coming tonight. I want to thank Mr. Lubisco for coming. We are going to start off with his round table.

Mr. Lubisco: Thanks everyone for coming out tonight. I just have a few things to talk about. Some things did happen since we last met. We had a successful Faber Funday. We had the First Grade trip to Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant, which went absolutely perfect. They really love that trip and the amount of time spent there is perfect for the age group. We have CAPS training going on and that is continuing and finishing this week. That is a Middlesex organization that comes out and trains Pre-K through 5th Grade with age appropriate materials on how to identify and deal with difficult situations, like possible abuse and signs and how to address them. It is a wonderful program. I sat in with each grade at least once to see how it went because this was my first one. The parent meeting we had went really well. We had about 20 people here that came out. We had another dental health event for the upper grades. Read Across America was wonderful. People from the Devils organization came out. Sparky, the mascot from the Somerset Patriots. We had some retired teachers, local politicians and parents come out. We also had a great parent night, with a first grade performance. Ms. Willoughby did a great job with that.

Upcoming, we have Parent/Teacher conferences coming up on the 15th. That's the one by invite. Teachers will reach out to you or you can reach out to your teacher if you feel a meeting is needed. Professional development on the 17th, so next week your children have two half days. We will send out other reminders. We have the recorder concert on the 29th and the Pre-K and Kindergarten Field Day on April 7th. It was split this year. Next year we are going to have Field Day in the Fall to coincide with the PBSIS kick off in the Fall. That's why we tested it this Fall. Last, but not least, you should have received a flyer at home. If you want to see the Devils, they added 4 different games now. We made it a contest to follow us on Twitter. Once you do that, just send in your name and we will send home the tickets. Please spread the word. We are really trying to push Twitter so we can use it next year for promoting PBSIS.

The Honor Roll committee has basically finalized what the event is going to look like. 4th and 5th Grade recognition. It will be for academic recognition, but there will also be an award for every academic area and special area to represent the excellent achievement. It will be in June. Once a date is set, we will send out the information. It will be a great recognition for students across the board. Not just academic, but also the special areas. Each and every one of our children have different skills, so we want to showcase that.

The preschool enrollment is open, so please pass on the information to anyone interested. We want to get everyone signed up as early as possible so we can make sure we are properly prepared for next year. Right now, we have 2 integrated preschool classes. If we have enough interest, we can see about adding more.

PBSIS that I keep talking about. Staff training is ongoing. In the Fall next year, we will have school events teaching students the expectations for the entire building. It will be universal, so there will be less confusion from teacher to teacher. And it's big on rewarding the positive behavior, not just correcting the negative behavior. The idea is that using at least 3 positive statements to every one negative statement. Helps to improve a positive culture.

Breakfast drop off will be the far door now. Nothing changes, they just enter at the far door and walk down the hallway. Helps to

get the drop off done without blocking the street.

Someone mentioned the lock box last meeting. I talked to Brian about that and he is looking into getting a lock box set up. It will help with the traffic at the main office. One of the other reasons for moving the entrance to the far door was to also cut back on the traffic at the main entrance. That way the only people going into the office are the ones that need to speak with someone there. It also helps with security.

Questions:

Is Twitter only for Faber? – Yes, for now it is just Faber. It is easier and faster to get notice out. Even better than Genesis and Honeywell. We need more people on there so we can use Twitter more. They are also working on embedding the Twitter feed on the school website.

Thank you.

Treasurer: (Pam): Monique couldn't be here tonight so I'm just going to go quickly over the Treasurer's Report for February. There should be copies on the tables there. There wasn't too much going on last month. We haven't paid for the Chrome books yet that were ordered. They are here, but they haven't made it to the Middle School yet because they are working on putting together the charge boxes for them. Also, the shirts aren't on there yet. Any questions? No questions asked.

Can I have a motion to approve? A second? The treasurer's report has been approved.

Kids Stuff coupon books, the flyer should have gone home. You can still order them. We have some in the closet and we know some will come in late. If you have them, get them in. These ones we have on hand are for here, but you can order for different areas.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Nicole: Please take a few minutes to review the February meeting minutes. **Any questions? No questions were posed. Can I have a motion to approve meeting minutes? A second? The meeting minutes have been approved.**

President: Pam: So like I mentioned, the Chrome books were approved at the last meeting, for those that weren't here for that. We approved 25 for LMS for the resource rooms. That way they each have enough for their classes. Thank you for approving that. They were very happy with that.

Mr Lubisco: Just to touch on that, with the PTO donation last year and the regular budget purchase, we now have enough Chrome books for 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade to be basically one-to-one. The younger grades have a cart that they use. The older grades help the younger students learn to use the computers.

Pam: BSI (VanRaes and Krauss) reached out to me. We haven't discussed this as a board yet, but I wanted to put this out there. They are looking to get a bunch of different resource books and BSI books for pre-k up through 5th for the classrooms. I have to admit, I was a little surprised by the cost. The cost was in the thousands. They wanted to start somewhere. They wrote some grants in the hopes that they get some grants. They reached out to PTO, but we have to see what we can put a number on it. I also said that maybe we can help with bake sales to add to the money that we can donate to them. The idea is to have a universal library so students can use books that are appropriate to their reading levels, in areas that interest them. With the smaller group instruction, they can individualize the reading much better. Once we establish the BSI library, then they can open it up to everyone. This is the starter library, then we can add to each year from the budget. The cost for the program K-6 is \$26,000. K-3 is \$14,000. We may be able to use Scholastic money towards it as well. This is a long term investment.

Tricky Tray flyer for the donations did go home. Ticket sales will be going up on the website in about a week to purchase ticket packages.

Bake Sale profit was \$206.05. Pretty good for a last minute bake sale. I'm watching the weather for the next one.

Believe it or not, but it's time again for board nominations. We have some forms up here if you are interested or want to nominate someone. The forms are on the website.

PTO Expo is also coming up. Let us know if you are interested in going. It's March 31st in Edison. They have some great fundraising ideas and other information. You can look at it for other organizations as well.

There are more box tops and Campbell's Soup labels in the PTO mailbox. For Box Tops, the #1 class was 4th Grade, Mrs. Mann with 1499, 2nd place was Mrs. Jiras with 716 and 3rd place was Mrs. Viola with 355. We just have to decide what we want to do as a prize for the class. Box Top total is \$512.10.

Tricky Tray committee, I will be sending out an email soon to get started. That's it for me.

Vice President's Remarks: (Silke): Spring Book Fair will be April 24th – 28th. We have the schedule here if you want to look. Athelia send the sign-up genius out to get the schedule filled with volunteers. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday still need help. Monday is covered. Athelia cannot do April 25th.

The Scholarship Committee – The scholarship info goes out just before Spring Break and they are returned the Monday after Spring Break. Usually ends up coming in within the first week back from Spring Break. I will notify the committee once I have the applications to review them.

8th Grade Promotion Party – Kate Guzzi sent out an email to all the volunteers. There will be a meeting next week at LMS to discuss.

5th Grade Farewell Party – It will be on June 2nd. We will need volunteers from the lower grades. Mrs. Tufaro has some personal reasons, but she may not be able to chair the 5th Grade Farewell committee. If anyone would like to step up for that, let me know. I will give you information for what needs to be done.

Drama performance is tomorrow, Friday, and Saturday evening at 7:30pm. Also Saturday afternoon at 2pm. It looks like a good show. The Addams Family. That's it for me.

Vice President: (Nicole): The next party for all of the grades is the Spring Party. Most of the parties, from what I have heard, will be on April 7th, the half day. Kindergarten sometimes does it on the full day. Reach out to your teachers to make sure that you have what is needed.

For the April Family Fun Night, we have decided to push Duct Tape the Principal to the Fall. There is too much going on in the Spring. There's the book fair, tricky tray, teacher appreciation, walk-a-thon, and all need volunteers. We didn't want to push an event with so much else going on. So we are going to plan it for the beginning of the year to make it a bigger event. We can work on it over the summer and have it be a good event. April will be a much smaller event, like a movie night or game night. Once that is set, info will go out.

We may also be able to do another restaurant fundraiser. Buffalo Wild Wings, Red Robin, etc. all have fundraiser options.

Corresponding Secretary: (Kelli): The next meeting is April 5th. Follow us on Facebook

Open Discussion: One of the attachments to the meeting reminder email was that Class of 2018 will be doing another movie fundraiser. Beauty and the Beast at the Dunellen Theater on April 2nd at 10am. Doors open at 9:30am. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and includes drink and popcorn.

Where do Tricky Tray donations go? You can drop them off at the school. The earlier you can donate the better.

Did you pick a date for Teacher Appreciation? Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1st- 5th. PARCC testing is at LMS 1st – 4th. Let's ask Mr. Altmire if it matters during testing.

Closing Remarks: (Pam): Thank you again.

Adjourned: 7:51pm

Respectfully submitted: Nicole Moore