

Spring Glen PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Present: See attached. Board members present: Co-president Anne Powers, Co-president Kristen Talwalkar, Vice President Liz Lowe, VP of Fundraising Misha Serfillippi, VP of Membership Christy Czekaj, Co-treasurer Angela Ames, Secretary Dave Hiller.

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM by Kristen Talwalkar

Reports of Officers

President

E-board and committee positions

- Introduces new board members Misha Serfillippi (VP of Fundraising) and Dave Hiller (Secretary)
- Currently gauging interest for next year's board positions
- Leigh is continuing to run social media
 - **Looking for help to revamp PTA website - volunteers?**

Block grants to teachers are closed

Winter's night

- Net \$6791.27 - well above budgeted expectations
- **Need volunteers to continue next year** (especially at that scale)

Boosterthon

- Genesis
 - Looking for fundraising events, saw Boosterthon implemented at West Woods
 - Chose in part because no volunteer effort was needed
 - During school - everyone could participate in run
- Total raised from event is ~\$12,000
- Fee comparison to other fundraisers
 - Boosterthon takes 50% plus \$2000 flat fee
 - Other fundraisers take 50-75%
 - Exceptions are ones that we plan and execute entirely (Winter's night, bake sales)
- Discussion
 - Polarized opinion represented at meeting
 - Reports from kids survey was generally positive
 - Surveying teachers
 - Took input from teachers and parents tonight
 - What is the effect of having for-profit employees in school?
 - Pressure to fundraise
 - Conversation in class about how much is raised
 - Effect on kids who couldn't/didn't raise money
 - Videos during lunch
 - Is it possible to realistically opt-out?

- Social pressure on kids regardless of message from parents
- Confusion/lack of communication about what the event was
 - Did people have any idea what the cut was?
 - Share these facts ahead of time
- Can school/parents take more control of in-school messaging?
 - Communicate with teachers for consistent, low-pressure message
- Other options?
 - Direct appeal - was tried ~2012
 - Different levels of PTA/Boosterthon involvement (which affects the profit sharing percentage)
 - Snapraise
 - Separate the activity (fun run/citizenship) from fundraising

Vice President

Nothing to report

Treasurer

This year's budget

- Boosterthon profits not posted yet
- Winter's night closed out

Membership

We're at 75%

National PTA is proposing to take a larger cut of membership fees next year

Principal

Calendar approved for next year, first day of school is Monday, August 26th

Art night needs volunteers - check signupgenius in Howard's newsletters/e-mail

Invention convention coordinated by Mrs. Irwin - next week at Bear Path

BOE recognizes Hamden Heros from Spring Glen - Nancy MacGregor and Leo Slattery

Conferences are coming up

(Kristen notes we need babysitters for conferences)

Hartford Wolf Pack game is the evening of April 6th - supports music department

Registration for kindergarten is ongoing

Budget process in Hamden is ongoing, 2% increase proposed

Current last day of year is June 12th (though no one wants to talk about it)

Committee Reports

Website/social media - Nothing to report

6th grade

- Made ~\$1300 at trivia night
- Upcoming event at City Climb

- Close to fundraising goal for NYC trip
- Need money for bus for 6-8 students to conference about combating systemic racism

Afterschool programs

- Spring session starting, lots of programs
- Increasing scholarships next year
 - Currently parents decide if they need one and contact the program
 - **What is the best way to encourage more families to use scholarships?**

Diversity and inclusion

- **Looking for new members**
- New events upcoming
- Bulletin board in school with information (competing with Art Night for space)
- (Howard - district is committed to this topic, recent training in implicit bias, more training coming in lead up to 2019-20 school year)
- Need to coordinate PTA committee, ABAR, Hamden schools committee

5K

- Need more runners
- Trophy presented to class with highest participation (includes all events, fun run is free)

Play

- No one from play committee present to give update
- (Christy - sponsorships keep coming in. Wrapping up drive.)
- **Need to fill leadership roles for next year**

Spring Book Fair

- Confirmed, May 22nd-24th
- Need volunteers (2 hour shifts) - sign up genius coming

Plant Sale

In early stages

New Business

Before school care - Parent interested in running something, meeting with Howard

Yearbook - Annie is working on it

Kindergarten playdates - Last year there were 5 PTA plus orientation and school-wide event. Misha will plan these for Summer 2019

Bucket fillers - band formed for Winter's night - is playing Best Video

Budget

- Larger, more vague buckets to allow more flexibility
- Spending is high to match this year's fundraising, but may need to be decreased in 2020-21 if PTA reduces fundraising effort
- What are the most effective uses of PTA money?
- What are the expectations for funding among teachers and parents?
- Try to reduce current bank balance

- Proposed budget will be amended and voted on at next meeting

Directory

- Need for paper directory
- Difficult to create early in school year, since information must be collected from parents

Meeting adjourned by Kristen Talwalkar at 8:10 PM