

Memorial PTO General Meeting

Date: January 10, 2024	Location: Memorial Elementary Library
Called by: Erin Valcourt, President	Time: 6:30 PM

Attendance: Jasmine Duffy, Kevin Valliancourt, Kristen Sanville, Erin Valcourt, Erika Moroito-Peilera, Leah Hagen, Wendy Bell, Erin Padula, Melissa Morse, Meg Half-Penny, Cayla McBee, Aimee Osterhus, Kristy Bradley, Ashley O'Connor, Catherine Wallace

Call to Order at 6:33pm

Approve Minutes (Recording Secretary) : approved via email

Opening Reports

President, *Erin Valcourt*

- Gina McFadden - Wizards need more players, per Wendy we have the most players on the team, and possibly the new Special Ed teacher as well

Treasurer, *Kristen Sanville*

- Appears the bus money is lost, still have to pay the yearbook from last year
- We have about \$9000 that has not been allocated

Principal, *Wendy Bell*

- Inspired learning day is coming up on 2/6, this is a pause in normal curriculum to engage in deeper learning experiences that students are choosing. Theme this year is portrait of a learner superhero. There will be 3 sessions per the day for the kids to choose
- Mrs Hagen is trying to get senior citizens to come in but having a problem getting the senior citizens/retirees
 - People made suggestions about ways to contact this population and may ask their parents/neighbors as well
- 2nd Inspired learning day is June 10th
- Heard all about the day the busses had to turn around due to power outage and the power outage at school and the lunches with peas
- Still need Lunch and recess monitors and substitute teachers, please contact school if you are interested

Agenda

Old Business - Unfinished

- Fundraising Updates (Ashley)
 - a. Reopened Spirit wear - open the whole month of January
 - b. Sweet little cookie Co. - DIY sugar cookie boxes until end of January, will get picked up on Feb 5th, so pick up will be one evening at Memorial
 - c. Feb 8th - Spirit night at Urban Air 4-8pm
 - d. Meeting tomorrow about a possible Fun Run for the spring
 - i. Need to do something to offset lower amount raised at Raise Craze
 - e. Will schedule a few other cooks night off in the coming months

- Cultural Arts Update (Aimee)
 - a. 3rd grade has 2 in school programs - Plimoth Patuxet and Animal Adaptations (Ecotarium)
 - b. 2nd grade - Field trip to Ecotarium, and in school States of Matter
 - c. 4th grade - Field trip to Acton Discovery museum, deciding on in school
 - d. PreK almost finished finalizing the Bubbles workshop (Acton Discovery Museum)
 - e. K and 1st are a bit behind schedule but we are encouraging decisions soon
 - i. K waiting for dates from Southwick

New Business - Ideas, motions, announcements

- Wizards game Saturday 1/27 (Erin V)
 - Need a few more Volunteers for souvenirs and concession, as well as a photographer
 - Link to sign up if you'd like to help:
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BA4A623A5FBCF8-46799936-game?useFullSite=true#/>
 - Erika offered to help with cleanup
 - Very expensive tickets as well, not clear that it is a fundraiser
 - Unsure what percentage the PTO will get
- Dates for 4th grade send off and Field Day (Erin V)
 - June 3rd - Field Day with rain date of Tuesday
 - Need to talk to the 4th grade team about same day or other
- 4th grade send off (Erin)
 - Chairperson/people; Committee members
 - Melissa LaMotte has volunteered to co-chair
 - Jess Tiley is also interested
 - We can ask Angelina to email parents to find interest
- Field Day (Erin V)
 - Chairperson/people; Committee members
 - We can ask Angelina to email parents to find interest
- Next big project (Kristen)
 - Water Bottle filling station
 - Idea came up at School Council meeting, and this idea was presented and met with excitement
 - We could probably roll the cost of the filters into the budget in place of water jugs in the office for teachers
 - There is one in the cafeteria but another would be welcome (no cups though)
 - Open to other ideas
 - Kevin - would we want to pay for all of the cost of the field trips? However 3rd grade is not going on a fields trip and different cost for each grade, issue with setting precedent
 - Leah Hagen - Karlyn is going to reach out to Pete Reynolds about another virtual visit for Read Across America
 - Kristen - bulk order of good tissues and hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, Wendy will touch base with teachers

- Kristy - is there a way to help incorporate all practices/religions when it comes to the holidays so that we can be more inclusive
 - Wendy - All practices have lights involved, can we talk more about the season and do more about all of them
 - Focus more on winter
 - Maybe change the Santa event to something about all the holidays, have stations, create awareness and make it a more inclusive event
 - Other schools - decorate hallways with information about all holidays, a possible service event/more global learning
 - Debbie Coyle could be a really good resource for information
 - SI teachers could be a good resource for Hispanic culture piece of things
 - School is becoming more and more diverse
 - Turn school into Winter wonderland, have stations - more on this to come
- Teacher requests (Erin V)
 - Shelby Black - Rolling cart: To store ELA items in a convenient and portable location and Stools: To provide flexible seating to both whole class and small group: \$101.98 **APPROVED**
 - Leah Hagen and Karlyn Gale - Books and supplies for Read Across America (Friday March 1st) up to \$400 - **APPROVED**
 - Books for each classroom "I Am Me" Susan Verde, Pete Reynold is the illustrator and tie into art project with Mrs Fowler
 - Also need volunteers - greeters, characters and a photographer
 - Kevin has volunteered, and Karlyn reached out to the same people that volunteered last year
 - Further description below*
- Open to the members or guests to share an idea or make a motion
 - Nothing else

Announcements

1. Remember to check for updates on our Facebook page (Memorial Elementary School PTO), Twitter (@PtoUpton), and website (www.memorialpto.org).
2. Sign up to receive our newsletter and announcements by sending us an email: MemorialPTOUpton@gmail.com
3. Next meeting will be February 7, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Memorial Library

Adjournment at 7:26pm

To the PTO and Members:

We would like to make a request for up to \$400 for Memorial School's Read Across America Celebration that we plan to have on Friday March 1st (Dr. Seuss' Birthday is on Saturday March 2nd) . This year we picked the book called "I Am Me" by Susan Verde and "Illustrated" by Peter Reynolds. Here's a description about the book from Amazon, *"Sometimes we hide who we really are to conform to the way we think we are supposed to be in the world. Sometimes we compare ourselves to others and feel we don't fit in. But when we realize we are something to be celebrated and we proudly live out loud as our true selves, we can make our unique mark on the world—and share our joy!"*

Mrs. Fowler has agreed to help us with some kind of community project/mural for the kids to work on that goes along with the book! The \$400 will be used to purchase books for each classroom as well as any supplies that Mrs. Fowler may need for the project.

Additionally, we would love to have help with the following things:

- **Characters** - We are looking for 3 volunteers to dress up - one as The Cat in The Hat, one as Thing 1 and one as Thing 2 - I have the costumes so I am just looking for volunteers who can greet all of the busses and drop-offs in the Am and then like last year maybe take a quick walk around the building saying a quick Hi and take class pictures with the characters. I am hoping to have the "regulars" do this again ha ha!!
- **Greeters**- We are looking for one or two people to greet all of the guest readers on Friday morning starting at 9:00am - There will be a packet for each guest reader (name tag and the book they will be reading)
- **Photographer** - We are looking for someone to take pictures outside, in the morning, when the characters greet the kids walking into school. We'd also like pictures of the guest readers in the conference room and then walk around taking pictures of the guest readers (and characters) in the classrooms.
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Thank you to the PTO and to all of the library volunteers for your help in the library this year so far - I appreciate all of your help and support!!

Karlyn Gale and Leah Hagen ☺

