



**Minutes of
The Merchantville School PTA
General Membership Meeting**

October 2018

President Felicia Dunsmuir called the meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

September minutes approved by general membership

Introductions

Felicia welcomed all attendees

Attendance Sheet sent around

CSA Report - Mr. Strong

Mr. Strong

- Announced we are at mid-point thru semester (30th day of school). 6-8th grade progress reports sent home today (10/17/18)
- Discussed the upcoming Halloween events – protocol, parade, parties and new possible activity for 6th-8th grades
- Discussed the November teacher conferences, no report cards will be issued prior to conference since they are earlier this year. Teachers will be able to discuss student progress with parents. The online schedule will open on Friday, November 2nd for easy scheduling of conferences. They will be held the evening of November 15 and 19th, the afternoons of November 16th and 20th.

Correspondence

Thank you note from Mrs. Huber for the book donations the teachers received from the Fall Book Fair.

Treasurer Report – Diana Pell

- Reported book sale profits of \$1414.00
- Mentioned Spirit Wear did extremely well during the Fall window for sales, will have profit amounts at next meeting.
- Announced that the Amazon Smile initiative for the dates 10/29-11/2, Amazon Smile will donate an extra percentage of all purchases during that time frame.

Treasurer Account Balances

Beginning Balance (as of 9/19/18)

- o General \$6,505.14
- o Gaming \$1,810.01

Deposits totaled \$5,515.89

Withdrawals totaled \$3,721.30

Ending Balance (as of 9/19/18)

- o General \$8,299.73
- o Gaming \$1,810.01



Programs and Fundraisers

- Fall Book Fair by Amanda Tennant – the fall book fair was a success. Amanda mentioned that she had solid help from Diana Pell and parent volunteers with many students buying books and book donations to teachers' school libraries.
- Spirit Wear report by Regina Lovelidge. Spirit Wear store is currently closed, will reopen prior to the holidays. Regina asked for approval to order and pay for 100 ornaments (minimum order needed), they will be available before the holidays.
- Pumpkin Patch report by Carrie Rupnow-Kidd. *Event will be held on Saturday, Oct 27th (10am-2pm). Rain date is Oct 28th.* She has most of the volunteers' spots filled on Konstella, and almost all the food donations spots have been filled. Student Ambassadors and NJEA students will help. Shawn Waldron has offered to MC the event. Asked PTA to advertise the event by word of mouth and Facebook. Praying good weather!
- Charleston Wrap report by Rebecca (Onkar)Bieber. The order should be delivered before Thanksgiving, sometimes it arrives right after Thanksgiving. Online orders may be delivered to house for additional charge or to school for nominal charge. No charge if you hand in the order to the school. Some people that ordered online reported they have already received orders by mail.
- Box Top report by Regina Lovelidge. Regina handled all box tops for fall, in the spring we will return to the previous method of having the room moms for each class collect, count and submit to Regina. The class with the most entries will win a prize.
- Field Trips report by Diana Pell. Diana met with both Mr. Strong and Ami Meachum to discuss the issues of the funding two class trips a year for each class. In previous years, each class has one general school trip and one art a facts trip, costs covered by the Carol Will fund. The costs of trips have risen due to higher student population and the rising costs of bus transportation for the trips. This year, it was in the budget for all classes to get one class trip and possibly for the 5th-8th grade classes to get the extra trip. There was some pushback as parents feel that all grades should get the second class trip and the artistic experience those trips bring to the children. **After much conversation, it was decided that the PTA would cover the cost of the extra trip and all kids would go on two trips for the 2018-19 school year. This is just for this year only since the funds are available, going forward the PTA/School Board/Mr. Strong will discuss ways to either fundraise or change the class trip setup.**
- Student Ambassador (program run by Nicole Kipp) announcement made that she is seeking applications 6th-8th grade by November 1st.
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Communications

Announcement Reminder by Mariaelena Beauchamp. Please send all weekly announcement postings to Mariaelena by *SUNDAY* night to publish in Wednesday newsletter, preferred method is PDF format.

New Business

No new business at this time.

Appreciation

General appreciation

- Thank you to Amanda Tennant and Diana Pell for their hard work and time during the book fair, general thank you to all parents who volunteered their time.
- Thank you to Regina Lovelidge for the significant merchandise upgrades to the Spirit Wear shop.



- Thank you to Rebecca Bieber for running the Charleston Wrap fundraiser
- Thank you to Julie Cuneo for her work as membership chair, especially at this time of year.
- A very big thank you to Mr. Strong, Diana Pell and Ami Meachum for all their time, effort and conversations needed to keep the secondary school trips scheduled as planned this year.

Upcoming/Current events

- ✓ 8th Grade Haunted House – Oct 19th and Oct 20th
- ✓ Pumpkin Patch Fall Fundraiser: Oct 27th, 10am-2pm (rain date – Oct 28th)
- ✓ PTA Skate Night – Thursday, Nov 8th
- ✓ Next General PTA Meeting: Nov 14th, 7pm (*date change from 11/21)
- ✓ Holiday Shop – Dec 4th-6th
- ✓ Holiday Parade – Dec 7th

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Prepared by Denise Wackes
Recording Secretary