



Minutes of
The Merchantville School PTA
General Membership Meeting

November 16, 2016

PTA President Ingrid Juliano called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

October minutes approved

Ingrid read communication

CSA Report

- Homework Club. Started Monday, November 14. Will be held Mondays and Wednesdays after school. An adult will be supervising and members of NJHS will be present to offer help. First two days were very successful.
- Coffee with the CSA. Mr. Strong is reaching out to different constituents and stakeholders to discuss the school. Inviting borough members and realtors; people who don't know as much about the school. All are welcome.
- Reading Incentives. DEAR days (Drop Everything And Read). There will be a winter book giveaway; enough books are leftover from last year's end of year book giveaway. The school will start the "Caught Reading" campaign on Facebook. Encourages parents to take and post pictures of their child/children reading in their homes and the school will post pictures of the kids reading throughout the school. There are also monthly goals throughout the school for an incentive to see which classes/students read the most.
- Conference information. The conference portal opens 11/30. K-5 are scheduled appointments with the teachers. Junior High – evening appointments are in the cafeteria on a first come, first serve basis. If a conference requires more privacy, parents can schedule a day time meeting with junior high teachers on Friday 12/16. Conference are Dec 14 and 15 in the evening and all day on Friday Dec 16.
- The junior high dance is this Friday 11/18. Early dismissal next Wednesday 11/23/16 and off for Thanksgiving.
- Dec 2 is end of trimester. Report cards come home Dec 9, one week prior to conferences.
- Renaissance assembly Dec 12. It's usually the same day as report cards, but 8th graders are on their winter trip so the assembly will be Monday to include 8th graders. The reward celebration will be Thursday, Dec 15 and it will be a movie day.
- Christina Hunter – Spanish teacher Mrs. Mendoza left last Wednesday and the new teacher, Mrs. McNanny, will be here for the remainder of the year. Christina has heard good feedback for the new teacher from her boys.



Treasurer's report

- Beginning
 - o General \$12,356.04
 - o Gaming \$2774.20
 - o Savings \$2635.78
 - o Playground \$5168.75
- Deposits totaled \$5411.06
- Withdrawals totaled \$6653.01
- Gaming Withdrawals \$100
- Playground Withdrawals \$1425.00
- Ending
 - o General \$11,114.39
 - o Gaming \$2674.20
 - o Savings \$2635.78
 - o Playground \$3743.75
- Book fair made \$2307.08
- Genevieve's made \$1203.20
- Bake Sale - \$606.06
- Other expenses: Music Enrichment started, Cornhole came – kids playing with basketballs again on big playground, family enrichment night (school bought 30 Barnes and Noble gift certificates for Caught Reading), second PTA table cloth, baskets, playground stencils purchased, Naturalist Club got new tents.

Programs/Fundraisers

- Holiday Parade – Felicia Dunsmuir. Everything coming along. Still need packaging materials, bubble wrap, newspaper, packing peanuts, air bubble bags, anything to use for stuffing. Judyann will go to Courier to see if she can get scrapped newspapers. There will be lots of stars on the float. It will be very bright! Even brighter than last year. The committee wants to make sure lots of kids walk along with the float. They will need parent volunteers to manage kids. We need candy for kids.
- Holiday Shoppe – Volunteer sign-up and schedule is on Konstella. Using a different company this year (Kids Kastle). We have used them in the past, and it seems we get a few more perks.
- Basketball – Judyann starting. She needs some guidance. We need to work around use of the gym schedule for home games (school team). Caroline Waters asked the difference between School and Intramural. Judyann asked Mr. Strong if she can go to each class to drum up excitement about the program. Mr. Strong agreed and will coordinate with her to get it set up. Basketball will be 2nd through 8th grades. Marisa sent Judyann past flyers for the program. She will review and re-use or make her own. Possible dates were discussed.
- Genevieve's – Do we want to do it again next year? Ingrid was going to bring up this meeting, but will discuss with the board as to whether or not to keep.



- Playground – stencils purchased. Ingrid needs to do research on how to get stencils painted on.
- Author Day – Nicole Kipp - Jerry Pinkney is the Author. Need to find out his scheduled to see when he is close by to cut down on travel expenses. Lisa – he is a very well known author. Grew up as a dyslexic African American in Philly and he has written a lot of books. He won the Caldecott award 5 times. The committee is hoping to have next year's author picked by January.
- Magnets – We are in the process of ordering the 5" car magnets. The plan is to give them away as a school spirit award. Do we offer at teacher appreciation week? Send home with the kids? Marisa – Does it need to be a mass giveaway? Can they be available for each event? Summer Freeman offered to utilize during Take Your Family to School Week. Ingrid – how would it work if we sent them home with the students? Nicole suggested sending them home with youngest child in each school. Christina suggested sending home with official invitation to let parents know about TYFTSW. Mr. Strong offered to have the school take care of distributing the invitations.

New business

- Summer Freeman – passed out a sheet for attendees to add e-mail address if they want to be involved with Take Your Family to School Week. She would like to form a committee.
- Judyann – Some teachers gave different ways to communicate at the beginning of the year outside of school e-mails and Konstella. The school is working on streamlining the process. Mrs. Nemerofsky asked if the teachers can use Konstella for parent communication. Yes! The concern from the teachers is that not all parents are on Konstella. Marisa stated that teachers can invite parents to Konstella to make sure their class is fully represented.
- Ingrid – All 4th and 5th grade students ski for free in Pennsylvania. Need to get the information out to parents. Nicole Kipp – it's easy to do, just put a blurb with a link. One free lesson a year, either skiing or snowboarding, then free rentals all season. Non-refundable \$30 processing fee for child.

Appreciation

- Stephanie Middleton – Reflections Program and Mrs. Baker and Nicole Eiland.
- Summer Freeman – Mrs. Van Sciver was so happy with the new tents. Wonderful trip, kids had fun.
- Christina Hunter – Konstella – Marisa.

Upcoming events

- Junior High Dance – Friday
- Holiday Parade – December 2
- Holiday Shoppe – December 6 – 8
- Winter Concert – 12/13
- General PTA meeting – 12/21

Felicia asked if there is Barnes and Noble Night. Ingrid stated that it has been moved to spring.



Rebecca Onkar has the membership envelopes

Caroline Waters – when will we talk about apparel? Nicole Kipp – coming home soon.

Meeting adjourned 7:49 p.m.

Prepared by Marisa Tkachuk
Recording Secretary