



Minutes of
The Merchantville School PTA
General Membership Meeting

September 2017

President Ingrid Juliano called the meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

President Ingrid welcomed newcomers to meeting. Explained that we usually meet every third Wednesday of the month and invited new members to continue coming to meetings. We would like to see some new faces and would like to get some new volunteers.

August minutes approved

Correspondence

- Thank you from Bella Carfagno for instrumental music scholarship.
- Thank you from teachers for welcome back breakfast

Mr. Strong

- Thank you for breakfast
- Opening of school has gone very well. BTS night, summer reading pizza party have taken place so far.
- Practicing evacuation drill tomorrow 9/21/17. Walk to St. Pete's and then return to school.
- New things for 2017-2018 school year – ability to pay for school lunches online. If interested in signing up, can go through PaySchool Central on school website. We can put money on a student's account instead of sending money with kids. Homework is being posted on the school website consistently. All teachers are using the website. We can sign up to get an e-mail with the homework information. Gives parents an opportunity to confirm homework. In the future, the school hopes to add a text option. Merchantville School app through educational network. Closing of school will pop up as a notification. This is all being done in an effort to communicate with parents and make sure everyone is on the same page. Monday e-mails to see activities taking place after school.
- Looking forward to a great school year. All teachers this year are returning teachers. A lot of new students this year.

Treasurer's report

- Beginning
 - o General \$5,387.19
 - o Gaming \$1,613.95



- Deposits totaled \$4,184.14
- Withdrawals totaled \$4,528.09
- Ending
 - o General \$5,043.24
 - o Gaming \$1,613.95
- Officially switched banks from Sun Bank in Collingswood to PNC Bank in Merchantville.
- Budget for the year was passed around. Diana Pell (Treasurer) went over programs and fundraisers for the 2017-2018 school year and the projected expenses and revenue.

Ingrid – Diana has to present our audit to the PTA board. The committee (made up of Carrie Kidd, Amanda Tennant, Marisa Tkachuk) signed off on the audit that Diana did to make sure everything matches up financially with receipts, expenses, and deposits for the 2016-2017 school year. The 2016-2017 was then officially adopted by the membership.

- By-laws. Rules and regulations that we as a Merchantville PTA have to abide by to remain within the NJPTA. Changed PTA membership to \$6 and shows that there are 6 PTA officers. Changing from needing 15 members for a quorum to 12. Marisa asked about the percentage of the membership to make the quorum and Ingrid clarified that the NJPTA now says 5-20 people are needed for a quorum.

Programs/Fundraisers

- Guitar lessons – Marisa gave an update. Guitar lessons are on Wednesdays. Mat Eiland from Eiland Arts is giving the lessons.
- Ingrid – Sending around a sign-up sheet for programs that we need volunteers for. Kari Shotwell – will legos be provided for Lego Club? Loredana – could 8th Grade NJHS/Ambassadors participate for service hours? Ingrid would like to see more of the older kids be involved in all of our programs.
- Carrie Kidd – Pumpkin patch. Co-chairing with Nicole Kipp. Saturday, October 14, 2017. On the bike path in conjunction with the farmers market near Eclipse. Eclipse will be open with a pumpkin patch brew. Fall, family fun day. We will have approximately 200 pumpkins in a patch created in the grassy area by Eclipse. \$6/kid and \$20/family to purchase and decorate pumpkins. Carnival type games. Lots of food. Prizes. Passing around a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer in times positions, food, bake sale. Great way to get to know kids in the school and parents in the school. Felicia D. – advertise on Collingswood Talks and Pennsauken talks.
- Christina Hunter – Box Tops. New process this year. Since the way the box tops work is that they have to be cut and pasted onto paper, we are doing a classroom contest. In every classroom, every box top counts. The classroom that has the most box tops gets a celebration. One classroom parent will be assigned the “box top parent” and will affix the box tops to the provided sheets for that class. October 15, 2017 is the first deadline. We will start advertising in the school. A box-top parent sign up was sent to have one person from each homeroom sign up.



- Ingrid went over forms brought to meeting. Save the Date, Konstella sign-up, activities and committees list and explanation, membership envelope, Amazon smile.
- Amazon smile – Lisa – Just signed up. A way for us to raise money without us having to do anything. When you go to the PTA website, click the Amazon smile link and we will get 0.05% back on your purchase. Marisa – can we automatically link through Amazon smile so it goes to PTA every time? Someone else said yes you can choose your organization. Denise W. said you can bookmark it.
- Flyers need to be sent to Lisa Kruczek by Sunday night to make it into the coming week's brown envelope.
- New website – Lisa updated and has a couple more tweaks to do and should be up and running by next week. The site will have box tops information and will be able to link to Amazon Smile. Every form needed will be in information section. Spirit Wear shop will be up indefinitely. Permission forms will be available on website. E-mails go directly to person in charge of event. Any suggestions, e-mail Lisa and let her know. Facebook page on front page. There will be a blog that has current events on first page. Events and programs constantly evolving.
- Amanda Tennant – Book Fair. Lounge bean bag chair and lots of other raffle items. October 3-5, 2017. By Monday 9/25/17, sign-ups for volunteers will go on Konstella.

New business

- Loredana – Sponsoring a bus trip to Broadway in NY to see a show. Wicked. Need to sell 55 tickets to get a bus. Sunday, February 17, 2018. \$138 per person. Transportation and show is provided with the ticket price. Mariaelena B. – there are planning companies that can do the whole package with food as well. Loredana – The current tickets are Mid mezzanine seats. We have a group rate and the bus company is local. The price includes tip for bus driver. Open to anyone. Mariaelena B. – how far in advance do we need numbers by? Would be a nice Christmas gift. Membership agreed to move ahead with the program. Cash or checks only in case we don't get the 55 minimum needed.

Appreciation

- Ingrid thanked Felicia D. for doing Welcome Back table. Carrie K. Tracy T. Ingrid was there. Rebecca O. Not a small thing, pretty big sacrifice to miss your child's first day of school.
- Lisa K. for teacher breakfast.
- Back To School Night – General Thank you

Upcoming events

- Charleston Gift Wrap Fundraiser started
- Naturalist Club Trip is 9/30
- Reflections Program started – Lisa explained how the Reflections program works
- PTA book Fair 10/3 to 10/5



- PTA Book Fair Family Night 10/4
- PTA Skate Party 10/7/17 – Free. Cherry Hill Skate Center. Twice a year. Cherry Hill Skate Center.
- PTA Pumpkin Patch 10/14
- General PTA Meeting 10/18

Ms. Goff is the teacher liaison for the PTA.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Prepared by Marisa Tkachuk
Recording Secretary