



Minutes of
The Merchantville School PTA
General Membership Meeting

October 12, 2016

PTA President Ingrid Juliano called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

September minutes approved

CSA Report

Family Literacy / STEAM Nights (Nov 3, Feb 23?, April 5?)

- Mr. Strong is inviting parents and kids to come in and talk about different literacy techniques. There will be different rooms with math games and science projects. Whole families can do the projects together. Teachers will be there to supervise and get the families started. Mr. Strong asked which date we should choose for one of the nights because Feb 23 is in the middle of TYFTSW and Apr 5 is in the middle of book fair. Ingrid likes the idea of book fair family night. Felicia Dunsmuir offered the idea of combining STEAM night and dinner during TYFTSW. Carrie Rupnow-Kidd asked if it will be just run by teachers or if the school will be sourcing help from parents/PTA. Mr. Strong would like to start with staff and will come to us if needed. Kids like to see their teachers at night. He will see how much interest he can drum up from the teachers. Diana Pell asked how long it would be. Mr. Strong said hour and a half. We decided on February 23 and we will have the remaining night on April 5.
- Initial testing is wrapping up (DRA Gr K – 5; SRI Gr 3 – 8; SGO Submittal) and the teachers are starting to get into the full swing of regular instruction.
- Halloween Celebration Info is being sent out as it has in the past. Pre-k through 5th will participate in the parade and will walk around the block. Hopefully construction won't be a problem. Classroom celebrations start around 2/2:15.
- Mid Trimester 1 = Oct 18 (Progress Reports go out for Grades 6 – 8)
- End of Trimester 1 = Dec 2 (Dec Conferences)
- Mr. Strong encouraged all parents to log onto RealTime to stay aware of child's progress.
- Mr. Strong is working on setting up "Coffee with the CSA". This will give parents opportunities to ask questions about the school and learn more about it. He would like to reach out to the community to have them learn more and be proud of the school. Mr. Strong is trying to continue the positive image of the school. Videos will be created this year. Mariaelena Beauchamp suggested having realtors come to these events so they can promote the school properly when selling properties in town.



- The school is creating a homework club after school where students can work quietly in the computer lab. NJHS students will be there to provide support for some students. This will not be individual tutoring. Starting out with 2 days/week and go from there.
- Mr. Strong emphasized that there is still a push for literacy. The school will send out documents every two months throughout the year to keep parents informed to help their children become better readers. He asked that parents encourage children to read every night no matter what age/grade.

Treasurer's Report

- Diana Pell presented last 3 years' audits for adoption. Shows year-end numbers, any checks that may still be pending. Audits were adopted.
- Accounts:
 - General: \$9147.61
 - Gaming: \$2671.20
 - Savings: \$2635.45
 - Playground: \$5168.75

- Deposits \$4256.17

- Withdrawals \$1047.44

- Gaming deposit – Author Day - \$103
- Savings Deposit - \$0.33

- Total ending
 - General: \$12,356.34
 - Gaming: \$2,774.20
 - Savings: \$2,635.78
 - Playground: \$5,168.75

Approve 2016 - 2017 Merchantville PTA Budget

- Ingrid went over the new line items:
 - Auditorium, Car Magnets, Corn Hole for large playground, Family Enrichment Nights, Music Enrichment, Music Program, Naturalist Club Tents, Small Playground.
- Marisa made motion.
- Christina Hunter seconded.
- Budget was passed with a quorum.

Programs/ Fundraisers:



- Haunted House. Nicole Kipp - bakers needed . Haunted House will be 10/21 and 10/22. 6p-7p will be the Not-So-Spooky for the younger kids. 7p will be open to the general public. Haunted Time Machine is the theme. Raffle baskets off.
- Discuss possible Movie Night – Nicole Kipp. Woodbine Swim Club did Family Movie Night over the summer. A big tarp was used for the screen and two movies were shown once it got dark. This would be a fun family night for the school. It would be an outdoor event on the big playground by the gym. Beauchamps have projectors, movies would be shown on lap top, Steve Kipp has tarping. Two ladders were used to elevate the tarp/screen. We would ask local food trucks to come or we would sell concessions. There was some discussion about whether this should be an indoor or outdoor event. Mr. Strong said outside is easier. Because the weather is changing, the topic was tabled for the spring.
- Author Day Update – Nicole Kipp. First committee meeting was held 10/4/16 with Lisa Kruczek, Nicole Kipp, Mary Rasi, and Mrs. Turan. They will regroup in a week or so after the committee members do research on authors. They have ideas to get things situated in the spring. They want to meet in January to prepare for next year.
- Election Day Bake Sale – bakers needed. Setting up at 7am. Marisa and Ingrid will be there.
- Christina Hunter – National Honors society wants to do service at the school. To properly designate volunteers, Student Ambassadors are to assist with PTA events and NJHS will assist with school events.
- Apparel – Nicole Kipp presented designs. There was a red knight with an M behind it and without and M. The group preferred the knight with the M. We will provide a spirit wear order form with one image. The form will come home and families will be able to purchase items from the options given.

Appreciation

- Ingrid for Rebecca Onkar for running Genevieve's fundraiser
- Felicia for Rebecca Onkar and Amanda Tennant/Carrie Brown for running Book Fair
- Marisa for Diana Pell for her work on the audits and budget
- Summer for Lisa Kruczek for going on Naturalist Club Field Trip

Upcoming Events

- Naturalist Club Trip 10/15 - 10/16
- Special Education Meeting 10/19
- 8th Grade Haunted House 10/21 - 10/22
- Halloween Parade 10/31
- Reflections Program - Entries due 11/4
- Skate Party 11/5
- Election Day Bake Sale 11/8
- Reflections Gallery 11/14
- Silver Diner Night 11/15
- General PTA Meeting 11/16



New Business

- Summer – is anyone going out for position on school board? Three people running to regain their seat. One person running that is not currently on school board. Empty seat.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm

Prepared by Marisa Tkachuk
Recording Secretary