



Minutes of  
The Merchantville School PTA  
General Membership Meeting

March 15, 2017

Meeting called to order 7:08 pm

February minutes approved

Mr. Strong

- Last night's BOE meeting – approved budget to go to county. Will have official budget hearing April 25 which will explain everything included in next year's budget. Biggest items for this year and next year will be phasing more kids into Haddon Heights, so tuition will be much higher.
- Calendar update for 2016-2017 – March 24 will now be half day in-service instead of full day in-service. Will now have to add one more day to end of school year now making last day of school June 16<sup>th</sup>, making graduation June 15<sup>th</sup>. Carrie Kidd asked if we didn't have snow days built into calendar. March 24<sup>th</sup> was the built-in day. There were 181 days in original calendar. They cut back to 180, but the snow day pushed to 181. 2017-2018 school year has in-service day, but no snow days are built into next year's calendar. Thursday after Labor Day will be first school day of 2017-2018.
- Second Trimester wrapped up. Reports cards going out Friday. Renaissance awards going out Friday. Monday, 3/20 will have Amy's breakfast.
- Read Across Merchantville School April 10-13 (Literacy Night April 11 & Musical April 12), Musical is Seussical, 13<sup>th</sup> is reading outside where all school goes outside to read for approx 30 minutes.
- PARCC first week of May. Grades 3-5 testing May 1-5. Grades 6-8 testing May 8-12. Infrastructure in great shape. 4-8 grade testing on Chromebooks inside classroom. Younger grades testing in computer labs.

Treasurer's report

- Beginning
  - o General \$3,898.19
  - o Gaming \$2,578.95
  - o Savings \$2,636.11
  - o Playground \$3,743.75
- Deposits totaled \$7,902.97
- Withdrawals totaled \$5,898.49
- Gaming deposit \$642.00
- Ending



- General                    \$5,902.67
  - Gaming                    \$3,220.95
  - Savings                    \$2,636.11
  - Playground                \$3,743.75
- Bingo made a little over \$3000. That was what we budgeted. Tracy Thomas – teachers saying future Bingo’s preferred on a Thursday.
  - Basketball over end of this month. Going really well. Judyann thinking of doing it during the summer one day per week. Can they get into the school? Mr. Strong – logistics that would need to be discussed but it’s a possibility. Lisa Kruczek – maybe they could play outside in summer. Diana – 4 teams, all have their own net. When they play, they play across instead of full court games. Depends on how many kids there are.

#### Communications

- PTA and front office – Need give Kathleen notice. Weekly announcement information needs to get to her by Tuesday 5pm. Any time we are going to drop anything off to the office, we need to notify Kathleen. Flyers – if chairperson is getting flyers out, Konstella goes to Marisa, Facebook goes to Lisa, weekly announcements goes to office. Mr. strong – if you need flyer in multiple weeks, can Kathleen them know how many recurrences we need. The school is trying to put flyers in order of event. Completely outside organizations go to end of list. Felicia question – what does it mean “to drop off food?” It means parents need to let Kathleen know that people will be dropping in and dropping food off. Lisa – website and online store – issue with e-mail situation. She got the website people on the phone. Currently Lisa is not the account owner, Katherine Swann (former Communications VP) is account owner. Katherine has been getting all the e-mails, but Lisa didn’t know. Website is going to try to make Lisa the account owner.
- Could we have one person making all the fliers? Lisa – need to send in jpeg or pdf. Makes sense to get all the fliers to Lisa on Sunday. Everyone send fliers to Lisa and Lisa will send everything to Kathleen. Lisa – everyone should make their own fliers because the style is different and doesn’t get boring.

#### Programs/Fundraisers

- Guitar update – Marisa – all going well. On 3<sup>rd</sup> session. 4<sup>th</sup> session filled or almost filled. Mat has been great. Kids really like the program. Some have started private lessons. Nicole Kipp – will we have the money to do again next year? Yes – and we are saving \$500 this year because we budgeted for 6 sessions and only had 4. And we have 4 guitars purchased.
- Book Fair – Amanda Tennant – all set. Everything delivered. Need an 8<sup>th</sup> grader to wear Clifford costume on Family Night. Patrick Kipp will wear Clifford costume. Doing Buy one Get one this time. The whole book fair theme advertises buy one get one.
- Tea Party – Diana Pell. April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ticket sales trickling in. Have 42 tickets purchased so far. Danielle has 50-60 basket donations sent in so far. Approx \$800 in ad sales. More than last year. And



reduced pricing this year. Decorating coming along. Christina Hunter and Danette Strader are doing cut outs. Bar area will be carousel area. Silhouettes on wall. Food donations online. Have a good amount signed up so far. One flyer sent out to parents if they want to donate product or advertise in book – on Konstella. Another flyer posted that if you donate a basket you will get a sheet of tickets. American Girl doll. Big chocolate bunny. Bike. One person for kitchen so far. Diana would prefer to have 3 people if they are all new. Ana Conway is sending a list of duties for the day. Kids coming from a high school doing a skit during the tea party. Monica Ruilova doing kitchen. St. Pete's tea party is same day. Wondering if it will be a conflict. Tracy – how does Kite parade work? Kids go to EilandArts week prior to make their kite. It's free. Then parade at Tea Party. 3 prizes.

- Science Expo – Felicia. Tomorrow night. Doors open at 5:45. Building starts at 6:15. Judging starts at 7:45. Exciting night to go around and watch machines going off. Still need a tool librarian, step counter, and timer. No one has signed up yet on Konstella. Should have enough judges – Mr. James and Mrs. Van Sciver. Katherine Swann was going to ask Council. Felicia and Katherine will stand in as judges. 4 prizes. Everyone that participates will get water ice. Trophies this year. Question – can we utilize the microphone in gym to play music. The school has the cord needed. We can do it. Mr. Strong will have tables set up right after school (12 tables set up along perimeter). 7 teams participating. 3 extra boxes should anyone just show up and want to participate.
- Spirit Wear – Nicole Kipp. Going to do another order form online soon and via paper form. Taking off knit cap and blanket and adding tank top and towel. She can only get a white towel, but can get a maroon or gray towel if she can sell 12. Going for gray. They think we will get enough orders. Rolling out week of April 4. She wants individual order sheets this time instead of the excel spreadsheet.
- Author Day – Mary Rasi – 3/29. Book orders due 3/17. A little different from last year because we have to go through independent book seller. Only getting 2 titles. Not a mass published author. Available for pre-order. Going to have another assembly – Poetry meet Percussion. Coming to do a cultural/ spoken word – Monday, June 5. Author is \$1800 and Poetry Meets Percussion is \$1300.

#### New business

- No new business.

#### Appreciation

- Ami Meachum – Talent Show
- Felicia – Lego Club
- Summer – TWFTSW, Lisa diversity dinner. Food was unbelievable. Very cool.
- Summer – Spirit After Dark
- Nicole, Diana, Tracy – Bag Bingo
- Nicole – Skating Party

#### Upcoming events



- Science Expo 3/16
- Teacher In-Service 3/24
- Author Day 3/29
- Tea Party 4/2
- Spring Book Fair 4/4-4/6
- Read across Merchantville 4/10-4/13
- Musical 4/12
- Spring Recess 4/14-4/21
- General PTA meeting 4/26

Meeting adjourned 8:07 p.m.

Prepared by Marisa Tkachuk  
Recording Secretary