



Merchantville PTA Meeting Minutes
9/14/16

Call to order 7:09 p.m.

Ingrid opened the meeting with an introduction to the PTA and fundraisers/events. We always need help. Asked the people in attendance to consider joining.

Caroline Waters asked if the meetings are only ever on Wednesdays and suggested staggering days of the week in the future for people who may have a consistent commitment on a specific day of the week.

Had a brief discussion about Konstella, asked if everyone knew about it. Will continue discussion more later in the meeting.

August minutes were approved.

Mr. Strong

- Looks forward to seeing the kids at the opening of school.
- Over the summer, a few projects were completed in the school
 - o Auditorium was renovated completely with new lights, curtains, projector, and painted walls. Stopped the water coming in the ceiling last year. Asked parents to stop by and take a look at Back to School Night.
 - o Renovated two new stairwells near the teacher parking lot and the new playground. Trying to do the stairwells in stages.
 - o Bond projects wrapped up with two bathrooms upstairs, Read 180 room, and two other classrooms. Cleaning of building, window washing, dry erase boards on entire first floor, and base boards. Will do upstairs next year.
- Picture day – appreciated everyone who took advantage of online ordering.
- Next week is the Renaissance kickoff. Hying up for 3-8 graders to excel in academics, discipline, and attendance.
- Moving to trimesters this school year instead of marking periods. Report cards will come home in December and March. He encouraged parents to check grades on real time. Conferences will be held in December instead of November.
- Report card up to 5th grade is changing to standards-based report card. Will report more information about how the students are doing academically. Easier to determine where your child ranks on a scale to work with strengths and weaknesses.
- The theme this year is Merchantville is full of stars. The students are the stars and the teachers are the star polishers. Renaissance program will incorporate the star theme.



Communications

Marisa read correspondence – Nick Meachum wrote a thank you note for 8th grade music award. Merchantville Teachers wrote a thank you note for the scholastic dollars we donated last year. Merchantville staff wrote a thank you note for the welcome back breakfast.

Programs/Fundraisers

Apparel and Car Magnets – Ingrid: we are going ahead with the car magnets. Need to decide when we will distribute to families. Janice Engekle has car magnet graphic. We will ask her if we can use it. Nicole Kipp will e-mail Janice. Nicole: She contacted Sue McCleary regarding apparel. Do we want it to be a fundraiser or keep everything at cost? Need to decide. We will send home an order form.

Career Day – Courtney Pinto is chairing.

Take Your Family to School Week – Need a chairperson. Marisa explained how the week works. Summer will chair it.

Konstella – Marisa went over Konstella. Asked if anyone has any questions or problems. Felicia brought up that some teachers have had issues connecting. Mrs. Nemerofsky brought up limitation so of the app vs. the site. Marisa explained that some things need to be done on the site directly.

Treasurers Report – Diana Pell

General account: \$6,938.63

Gaming account: \$2,671.20

Savings account: \$2,635.45

Playground account: \$5,168.75

Deposits - Dues \$136.98, Art A Facts \$1500, Author Day \$575. Total \$2,211.98.

Withdrawals - Monthly Fee \$3.00.

Ending balance in general changes to \$9,147.61 and the remainder of the accounts stay the same.

Ingrid discussed playground account fund usage. Need to order donation plaque and stencils with remaining balance. Carrie explained that we will have a parking lot painting company come out and paint the activity stencils on the blacktop area next to the equipment.

Appreciation – Ingrid thanked Lisa Kruczek for Welcome Back Teacher Breakfast and Lisa thanked all who donated for the breakfast. Ingrid thanked Carrie Rupnow-Kidd and Felicia Dunsmuir for Welcome Back Tables.



Upcoming events:

Genevieve's starting at the end of this week. Rebecca Onkar explained that Genevieve's is nicer than Innisbrook and that Innisbrook doesn't exist anymore. Reflections Program. Largest art program that the PTA Nationally sponsors. School, County, State, National.
Book Fair 10/4-6. Family night 10/5.
October 12, General PTA meeting and budget meeting.

New Business

Kari Shotwell asked if we needed more volunteers for the tables at Back to School Night to gather e-mails for parents.

Summer asked if there are still student ambassadors. Christina Hunter explained that she is going to do presentations to the 7th and 8th grade classrooms and will get out a list of the ambassadors.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.