



Minutes of  
The Merchantville School PTA  
General Membership Meeting

October 2017

Secretary Marisa Tkachuk called the meeting called to order at 7:07 pm. (President Ingrid Juliano was absent for personal reasons.)

CSA Report – Mr. Strong

- Mid Trimester October 20, 2017
- Progress Reports go home October 25, 2017 (Grades 6-8) – Check Real Time to track progress.
- Halloween Celebrations – AM preK is invited to come to 1:30 pm parade.
- Setting up for conferences December 18-21 – very last week of December before break. That whole week will be half days. Monday and Tuesday will be night conferences. Conference Portal will probably open the Monday after Thanksgiving for parents to set up their own conferences.
- LinkIt! Assessment – In 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, administered a LinkIt Assessment. This assessment is not for a grade. The assessment gives teachers information about where the kids' strengths and weaknesses are. Language Arts – grouped based on skill levels. By using this program, faculty can determine what students should be together in a group. DRA, SRI, PARCC, ASK results are all in Real Time.

Treasurer's report

- Beginning
  - o General \$5,043.24
  - o Gaming \$1,613.95
- Deposits totaled \$6,510.09
- Withdrawals totaled \$3,135.50
- Withdrawals from SUN \$407.76
- Gamine deposit \$350.00
- Gaming withdrawal \$19.99
- Withdrawals SUN \$263.95
- Ending
  - o General \$8,010.07
  - o Gaming \$1,680.01

Treasurer Diana Pell went over expenses and income items. Book Fair budgeted income was \$1200 and we raised \$1,267.40. The Pumpkin Patch budget was \$2,500. On the day we raised \$1538 plus pumpkins coming in and expenses going out.



### Programs/Fundraisers

- Pumpkin Patch recap and discussion – Carrie K. Thank you to all who volunteered. Great feedback all day. She is surprised we didn't sell all the pumpkins. The Toilet Paper Toss made the most money. Popcorn is a good prize. Carrie took a lot of notes the day of. She thinks we should order the same amount next year (were told it would be about 200, ended up being 156). We sold about 100 pumpkins. Sense of community could be felt throughout the event. Two community members/parents recommended consolidating all community Halloween events into one (Chili cook off, Monsterville Farmers Market, Pumpkin Patch) We can use the generator next year to set the bake sale table up in a different section so it looks like it's part of the market. Christina Hunter – When the Junior Women's Society did the pumpkin patch, they started at \$3000 and was up to \$6000 the final year. They used to do it at the Community Center during baseball and all concessions were sold to baseball parents. Chick-Fil-A sandwiches and hot dogs were included in food. They did a costume parade for the kids. At the time, the Public Events Committee paid for half the pumpkins. Holli C. – Her neighbor said it was great. Marisa T. on behalf of Nicole K. – something competitive for the older kids. Mummy wrap? Bobbing for apples or apple cider donuts. Bill as the "Merchantville Pumpkin Patch" sponsored by the Merchantville PTA. Jen D. – Have every class make a craft that can be a decoration. Something on a clothesline. See your child's craft on display. The crafts can make up a portion of the decoration. Rebecca O. – Bigger sandwich signs on some of the main corners pointing toward the area. Some people couldn't find it. Jen/Rebecca – does it have to be tickets for baked goods and food? Marisa shared participant feedback that a lot of people were expecting to pay with cash.
- Charleston Wrap - (Rebecca O. feels like we raised way more than was budgeted for Charleston Wrap). Mrs. Turan – shared a concern that the products are not made in USA. Rebecca had previously look into this and found out from the company that all gift wrap is designed and produced in the USA, but they get their wood that makes the paper in another country (Canada). So they cannot say that it is made in the USA. Innisbrook still makes wrapping paper, but they do not sell for fundraisers. They are a wholesale company that supplies paper to other fundraising companies.
- Holli C. – Do we do other fundraisers – cheesecake? Food sale? In the past, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade has done the cheesecake fundraiser. We are open to other fundraisers.
- Website is live – Give Lisa feedback as she is still tweaking. There is more she can do with it, so if you have any ideas let her know. We can have more pages. Box Tops stuff is on there. Link to Amazon Smile. A lot more forms are available on this website. Permission forms or anything that needs to be filled out. Anything can be connected to Pay Pal. Spirit Wear shop will be up soon.
- Broadway Trip – Lisa on behalf of Loredana R. Could anyone volunteer to be contact person on playground after school for people to give money to? Marisa – the money can go into PTA mailbox. Payment is due January 2. Deadline to confirm is before Christmas break. Show is



- February 17. Lisa is helping Loredana finish flyer. Post on Konstella and Facebook. Marisa – Discussed the possibility of making small snack bags for the day of for the trips to and from.
- Talent Show – Susie S. 1<sup>st</sup> time doing show the show and has questions. Cannot get all permission slips from kids and would like suggestions on how to procure. She does not have contact information for some of the parents. Marisa was able to find some contact info on Konstella and Ms. Goff will look into the remaining children. Her Goal is to keep rehearsals pretty tight and to a minimum so they are not at auditorium all day every day. (Christina – Ami was a stickler for kids having permission slips on first day or not participating). Susie needs help with stage/sound/light. Marisa – talk to Shawn Waldron to see if there is a stage crew put together yet. Do sports interfere with possible stage crew participants this time of year? (Ann – when are rehearsals?) Schedule is Tuesdays and Fridays after school. Starting in November, they will move from 2 to 3 days a week after school. Ambassadors – will help night of to keep kids in room. Reach out to Sharon R. who runs Student Ambassadors. (Shawn said we might be able to buy or rent foot lights for not much money. Equipment needed. Need side lights. Would also be important for concerts, musical, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade play, NJHS, Graduation. Could use another spot light and mics. ADD TO BOARD DISCUSSION)
  - Reflections – Marisa. Quick reminder to make sure kids are working on their entries. Due 11/6/17.
  - Haunted House – This Friday and Saturday 10/20 and 10/21. From 7 pm until last person comes through. 6-7 is the Not So Scary. Mr. Waldron said this year was the biggest class participation he's had. Mr. Waldron got kids involved and gets them to come to meetings.
  - Junior High Dance – Christina will reach out to Mrs. Brill for food donations.

#### New business

- Christina H. – Kari S. wanted to let everyone know the car show will be coming back for 2018 and she wants to partner with the PTA. Maybe we can do the carnival games again like Kids Fest. Feathers and spray for hair booth.
- Bingo – Do we bring back again for next year? Nicole K. would be willing to teach a new person how to run.
- Rita Marie's night? Rita Marie's has expressed interest in partnering more with the PTA. Christina H. – they are offering free slice coupons for anyone who goes to the Haunted House.

#### Appreciation

- Lisa K. – Amanda T. and Carrie B. for the book fair
- Rebecca O. – Carrie K. and Felicia D. for Pumpkin Patch
- Carrie K. – Marisa T., Nicole K., Felicia D. for Pumpkin Patch. Thank you to the businesses. Jon Paul. Rita Marie's. They want to do it again. Janet Stevens from McFarlane's.
- Carrie K. – Rebecca O. for Charleston Wrap



Discussion

None.

Upcoming events:

Haunted House 10/20 and 10/21

BOE Meeting 10/24

Halloween Parade 10/31

Junior High Dance 11/3

Reflections Gallery Event 11/13

Next PTA Meeting 11/15

Meeting adjourned 8:17 p.m.

Prepared by Marisa Tkachuk  
Recording Secretary