

## FRRES PTA MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:15 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE: PTA Board members Sherry DeCelle, President; Kenly Brozman, Vice President; Iona Packie, Treasurer and Katharine Adams, Secretary; Faculty Members Tom Nadolny, Principal; Chris Keller, Teacher; Laurie Flower, Teacher and Meaghan Phair, Teacher; Committee Heads/Parents/Guests: Anastasia Stanmeyer, Craig Drenga, Cathy Couch and Wendy Berman.

MOTIONS VOTED AND APPROVED: Minutes from previous meeting, December 2014; \$200 from "Labels of Education" be used to meet Kathy Couch's request for *Read Across America* items for Dr. Seuss' birthday; \$200 for Laurie Flower's *March Madness Awards* program.

CALENDAR, NEW ITEMS:

**Annual Otis Ridge Ski Program.** Final night of classes was Wed 2/11; one more night of open skiing to be Wed 2/25, 5-9 pm.

**Cash Calendar.** End date sales Fri Feb 27; drawings begin Mon March 2.

**PTA Nominating Committee.** To nominate and vote to elect officers for following year's PTA board, nominating committee members must be in place by March PTA meeting.

**Dr. Seuss' Birthday / Read Across America:** Monday, March 2.

**March Madness Awards.** Date TBD.

**Screen Free Week.** May 4 - 10.

**Trio of Enrichment Activities, TBD/TBC (to be determined/confirmed):**

- **Grumbling Gryphons.** TBD targeting April, either 10th or in first two weeks.
- **Gaia Roots Performance.** TBC tentative date, Tue June 9.
- **Flying Deer Nature Center.** TBC tentative date spring or fall.

**Field Day.** Friday June 19 (rain date Thurs June 18).

**Last Day of School,** as of this writing and according to use of Snow Days: June 23.

**Next PTA Meeting.** March 12 at 3:15 in the school library.

CALENDAR, ONGOING:

**PTA monthly meetings.** Held second Thursday of each month, 3:15pm in the Library.

**PTA Agenda** will be posted to school website on Fridays, prior to PTA meetings.

**PTA Newsletter submissions** requested within one week following PTA meetings, usually by third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Friday of each month, emailed to: [katlamixe@gmail.com](mailto:katlamixe@gmail.com).

**Treasurer's Report.**

CREDITS:

- Cash Calendar donations all in

- \$518 in Box Tops recorded in January
- Ski Program money all in
- \$225 Boy Scouts 6th Grade donation

• DEBITS:

- \$576 printing Cash Calendar + \$90 second printing
- Coffers: \$18,588 of which \$9,729 in classroom accounts
- \$1,800 allotted for further enrichment programs/piece of equipment
- Ski Program and prizes need to be paid for

**Kathy Couch: Read Across America; Labels for Education; New England Coffee.**

• Dr. Seuss' Birthday / Read Across America: Monday, March 2nd (snow day will be Tues 3/3; note concurrently there are anti-bullying presentations all day, same day; Mrs. Farella's Author Share on Weds 3/5; and Field Trip on Thurs 3/6. Connect with Mr. Nadolny to ask when would be a good snow date). Working with reading groups, PreK to 6 G. Mr. Keller is working with teachers. Mrs. Bracken is working with someone to come in and read. Everyone will be given pre-printed "Cat in the Hat" style toppers purchased last year, as backup (kids colored their own last year). Pens, coloring book, pencils, erasers, bookmarks. Looking for apx \$200. Will need printing of 2x3 labels to place on little bags.

• Campbell Soup's "Labels for Education": Kathy sees them trickle in, banks them and sends a bunch at once. New program has been introduced now, with points worth cash value. 22,000 points = \$250 cash card. Need to place big can & marketing program, along with current Boxtops for Education. Kathy's final year is next year; need to find new point person to manage "Labels for Education."

• New England Coffee sales offers 50% return, including K-Cups and Tea sales. Potential Fall Fundraiser for next year. Reminder that we are already considering the *Square One Art Fundraiser* for next fall; need to circle back with Laura Catullo, to see if she's on board and would support the program within curriculum.

**Kenly Brozman: Flying Deer Nature Center.**

Idea to use additional funds from summer fundraiser to get kids outside.

- FDNC can offer full day program for 3+4 G, then 5+6 G next day.
- Helps for FDNC to do an intro session prior to programs.
- Usual rate \$1,800; happy to do for \$1,500, based on understanding there are apx 12-15 students per grade.
- Younger grades not included, due to funding shortage; if FRRES wants to build this into curriculum, as an adjunct, the younger ones would eventually experience it.
- Question posed: can some sort of short nature walk, etc be offered for the younger grades for a price? We have a full \$1,800 budget left, so we can look into this.

- “Hatchet Program” in Billtown (more survival skills and challenge-based) provides a model idea.
- Question: does this type program work now, or work in the fall? We have Grumbling Gryphons, Gaia Roots, etc also to consider. Perhaps target as a fall event, and try to include younger grades.
- Recommended to have FDNC event coordinator attend our March PTA meeting to describe the program.

**Laurie Flower: March Madness Awards.**

Last year, we did MMA with men’s teams and reading incentive, tied in with shooting “free throws” and “hot shot competition”. PTA split monetary value of prizes and paid for a little more than half, with cost of \$200 (kids loved their prize medals) and participation ribbons (kids also loved) and six basketballs that were given to the top shooters. Would PTA consider funding half again? The class that read the most did the basketball shooting competition; the top three among won the prize basketballs. All grades are touched upon, right down to PreK. Hanging a banner this year of the Elite Eight Pendants from teachers with names of students, grade and college or university to promote awareness of surrounding schools.

**Principal’s Report.**

GaGa Pit Update and Indoor Recess. The pit will fit in a drastically modified version on the stage (1/4 of size). Drama will be starting soon; 4th and 5th G using it for plays soon. Still looking at stage to figure out how to fit and secure barn doors; 1/4 capacity also means 1/4 kids can use, so that presents a problem. Regarding community usage for their volleyball and ballroom dancing events, rather than using the gym in the Town Hall, message that has been transmitted is that community pays taxes, providing the rationale for why we let outdoor organizations come in and use the buildings. A whole host of reasons why we cannot set the GaGa Pit up in the gym during the cold months. Plan is to put it up once the snow (finally) melts, and leave up a couple of weeks after school lets out for the summer; then pack it up for the summer (rather than leave it out), and restore it again to the playground in the fall to use.

Iлона is putting a list together, by classroom, of what kids want to do for indoor recess in the gym. It has been strongly encouraged to the Teacher’s Aides to have the kids go and run in the gym (they were worried about a “free for all” and that kids would get hurt; one suggested solution is to throw down 4 bases, throw down a kick ball, and have them all just run in one direction, rather than all over the place). Regarding children needing to stay indoors for recess at temperatures below 25 degrees, it is not a law; it’s about windchill, ice and frostbite warning areas within 5 mins. Moving forward, Sherry will speak with Karen about directing kids to run in the gym during PTA meetings, rather than sit in front of the computers in the lab.

**Anastasia Stanmeyer: Screen Free Week Dates and Activities.**

May 4 - 10, whole week; May 4, 6, 8 will have activities.

- Mon May 4: Rec Center Bingo at FRRES, with pizza and parents bring dessert. Cost mostly covered by Rec Center. Patricia at Rec Center recommends we may want to get a jump on making posters related to themes for events, created by kids, to raise awareness and excitement toward attendance.
- Wed May 6: Chris Keller's Hike; includes snack and drink.
- Fri May 8: Swimming and dinner at Berkshire South, includes dinner afterward (around \$600 cost). Parents and siblings can join in for reduced cost. PTA gets chicken tenders, mac & cheese, etc from Price Chopper.

Noted that ice skating program was canceled; people probably getting burned out on cold season, plus long drive to Westfield; attendance was low last year.

#### **Gaia Roots update.**

Tuesday June 9, to be confirmed with OCC, and details ironed out later. Probably dinner at 5, performance held around 6, and desserts at 7, held here at FRRES in the gym, with pizza / salad dinner served.

#### **President's Report: Cash Calendar update.**

Typically, we only print 1,400 calendars; but we ran out! So executive decision was made to print 200 more. We had lost a couple of big sales families, but some children in the lower grades have sold large amounts. Calendars can also be emailed out (and if people purchase, later physically mail the calendars). End date to be Friday, Feb 27; drawings to begin on Monday, March 2.

#### **New Business.**

Nominating Committee needs to be established for next year's slate of PTA board members. Formal PTA protocol is to assign 3 people, who need to have in nominees in place by March meeting; the trio must be in agreement about who should be placed on ballot. Need to appeal to the larger FRRES community. Nominating Committee: Craig Drenga, Anastasia Stanmeyer, and Melissa Costa. Anastasia will construct the letter that we are seeking new people to step in and help carry on this important work, and remind people that we have built something of great value that will disappear if we don't keep it going and support it.

#### **Grumbling Gryphons update.**

Sherry to get in touch with GG to see if April 10, or a weekday sometime during the first two weeks of April is available to book them. Point person in GG group: Leslie Elias. Arlene is co-coordinator. For K-Grade 6. A whole-day residency. Note: if a June date, it is

needed before MCAS. The Otis Cultural Council had agreed to appropriate \$500 toward \$1,500 program/workshop for the Grumbling Gryphons.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:45 PM.

NEXT PTA MEETING: Thursday, March 12, 2015, 3:15 PM in school library.