

**Farmington River Elementary**



*everychild.one voice.*®

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Thursday February 11, 2016

Meeting Start: 3:15 pm

Motion made to approve minutes from January's meeting approved.

It was suggested to add School Committee meeting dates to the PTA Minutes Calendar in January; added.

In attendance: Wendy Berman, President; Craig Drenga, Vice President; Kathy Adams, Secretary; Ilona Packie, Treasurer; Tom Nadolny, Principal; Meaghan Martin and Chris Keller, Faculty; Jess Drenga and Ashley Nelson, Parents / Committee Heads.

**FOR OUR CALENDARS: Events**

**M Feb 29 – F Mar 4** Scholastic Book Fair (to coincide with Read Across America day, Mar 2)

**W Mar 2** Read Across America in celebration of Dr. Suess's birthday

**F Mar 4** 5:30 pm, Family Fun Night | 6:30 pm, Bryson Lang performance | 5–8 pm, Book Fair open to public

**T Mar 15** Wendy, Kathy C., Kathy A. and Craig will attend PTA convention in Hartford, CT

**M May 2 – F May 6** Staff Appreciation Week

**M May 16 – F May 20** Screen Free Week

**F June 3** Field Day (Rain Date: Th June 2)

**FOR OUR CALENDARS: PTA Meetings, 3:15 pm in the School Library**

**Th Mar 10** March PTA Meeting

**Th Apr 14** April PTA Meeting

**Th May 12** May PTA Meeting

**FOR OUR CALENDARS: School Committee Meetings, 7 pm in the School Library**

**M Mar 7** March School Committee Meeting

**ENDING SOON!**

**Target Rewards Program** This program will end May 14

**Labels for Education** Get your Labels in . . . this program will end in June

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Wendy

**Scholastic Book Fair**

Scheduled during week of Read Across America, Feb 29 - March 4. Will send out letters the week before (not too early, to be prominent in mind). Wish Lists will be sent to teachers. Have Fair the whole week, but don't need to be open the entire week. In past, teachers had "sneak preview" as well as students having a preview. Teachers come in at their leisure; Wendy to place "wish lists" in their mailboxes.

**Tuesday March 1:** Setup from 3–5 pm.

**Wednesday March 2:** 10–3 pm. Teacher and kids' preview (classes will have signed-up for Preview). (Note: Read Across America happens from 9-10am)

**Thursday March 3:** 9–12 pm, teacher and kids' shopping.

**Friday March 4:** 12:30–3:30 pm shopping; close for a spell, then reopen for evening 5–8 pm, during Family Fun Night.

Requested that Scholastic send one less book case of the lower grades, and one more of the upper grades. They will send cookbooks, etc. and we can elect to put them out or not.

**Scholastic Book Fair schedule of events for Friday, March 4:**

5:30 pm, Pizza Dinner for FRRSD families and staff

6:30–7:30 pm, Bryson Lang comedy juggler performance. Based in MA; has performed around the world; \$520 fee. Needs high ceiling (ours is minimally 30 ft.)

5–8 pm, Book Fair open to public

8 lawn signs ordered, “H” style stands. Kathy A. will do the pizza run. An RSVP will be sent early in the week of the event, with a reminder for dessert donations.

**Thank Yous**

Mary Turo sent PTA a thank you for Chill-Out and Read funding for prizes; also a thank you for the gift in memory of Elaine Bertoli, being donated to New Marlborough Library.

**Teacher’s Room**

Wendy bought glass jars and filled with candy and oranges for Valentine’s Day.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Craig

No new business or updates to report.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Ilona**State of the Treasury**

Chili Cook-Off proceeds: \$370 from door. Expended \$175 in prize money. Only Kathy C. has submitted a receipt for supplies reimbursement at \$55; no bill yet from Knox. Musicians paid, but OCC will reimburse PTA for money spent. Received Cash Calendar sales: \$2,800 so far. Suggestion to send a reminder note home with the kids about the Cash Calendar sales and returns of unsold calendars. Treasury starts at \$16,416 (Ski Program still has to be paid); after classroom balances, treasury is at \$8,795.

**Snack Bar Update**

\$377 collected, but a \$140 deficiency. There was formerly enough money to pay Karen Yvon for childcare. Seeking suggestions, going forward. Craig will check out vending machines possibility; a small one. Will email findings prior to next meeting. Teachers queried; suggested they be queried again, positive tone and mention of running at a deficit, try another month or two at a limited menu. The smaller it is, the easier it is to keep track of. Trail mix, peanuts, chocolate, seltzer and soda in fridge. Attempt to do a limited trial run. If this time it does not work, will have to stop.

**Ski Program.**

Next week, Wednesday February 17 is pizza party. Final night of lessons is 2/24(?)

**End of September 2016**

Nature’s Classroom. Traditionally, PTA funds \$10 per student for snacks; early request to consider doing so again. Looking at 25 students.

**T Mar 15** Wendy, Kathy C., Kathy A. and Craig will attend PTA convention in Springfield.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** Kathy A.

No new business or updates to report.

**OLD BUSINESS****Chili Cook-Off Wrap-up:** Chris

16 pots of chili seemed to be the right amount. People really enjoyed it as a community event; not considered a money-maker, but a time for the community to come together. Knox owner Dave LaCasse was very positive. Will take consensus next season to do again, or wait for following year.

Event was held at The Knox on Friday, 5-8 pm. Ilona was a great help in organizing event. Hinsdale Trading in Becket plus Papa’s Healthy Food & Fuel were businesses donating chili. Chris’s son is a culinary student and was a chili cook. Kathy Couch delivered paper products (napkins, bowls, spoons and

roll of table cloth paper). Band was fantastic. David Reed and The Trio Traumatica played 1.5 hour set from 6–7:30, to allow time for initial tasting to begin, and votes to come, finally announcing winners at 8 pm.

**Indoor Recess Kits:** Wendy

No input from paras upstairs; downstairs paras mentioned a few items. Teachers should be consulted, not just ask paras. Teachers at PTA meeting said they'd like to ask their classes what they would like. Something quiet and not very intrusive. Board games tend to be not used. Meaghan mentioned kids love to make things with a set of magnetic balls and pieces; perhaps we could try to find more. Girls just like to draw.

**First Aid Kits for Emergency Bags**

Ilona consulted with Denise Zuidema; \$10.00/pc first aid kits, 25 kits order, \$275; can also order 100 thermal blankets for \$44 (large enough for more than one person). Reusable. Don't expire. Total approximately \$320 for all of the Go Bags. If alarm goes off, in winter or inclement weather and it is not a PLANNED practice alarm, everybody is automatically evacuated to either the DPW or Town Hall. Cannot risk freezing while waiting for buses to arrive. Teachers can each fit more than one student in cars. Dufour says they can get here within 20 minutes. Police Dept closes entire road down to Town Hall.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**March Madness Program:** Wendy

Laurie Flower requested money for March Madness to cover ribbons, medals and basketballs (kids not into the pins last year; perhaps back to ribbons again instead). Will also purchase heavy-duty two-sided tape and material for banners: \$200 for supplies. Motion to approve was passed.

**Scheduling Evening Events:** Wendy

Some parents asking why are music events, etc scheduled on Thursday nights? Forwarded questions to Tom. Kim is only here on certain days. Mondays don't give her time to rehearse; Fridays traditionally taboo; Thursdays help the music teacher gain time to rehearse. No matter what night is chosen, parents have to make a choice with advance notice to make arrangements.

Labels for Education program is ending in June, due to sharp decline of participation.

Drama update. No teacher has decided to take it on; JoAnne spoke with Association of Teachers, and we can open it up to someone from outside. Tom spoke with Travis Daly with BTG program for 6th grade, who is digging to land someone to go through CORI check, fingerprinting, etc. Wary of advertising ourselves to be careful of who we get.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:10 pm