

February 5, 2020

Meeting Start: 3:13 pm

January minutes were approved. Dana Pustinger motioned and Jennifer Catolane seconded. All approved.

In attendance: Aimee Magovern; President, Dana Pustinger; Vice President, Jennifer Catolane; Treasurer, Linda Curtiss; Secretary, Laura Catullo, Amy Maxton, Teresa DellaGustina, Sarah Pease, Megan Smigel, Sharon Hryckvich, Craig Drenga

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- School Counselor Week: Aimee decorated Ms. Terri's door with balloons and streamers and signs and made for her a "school guidance counselor's first aid kit" last week. She was very appreciative and sent a thank you card.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Knox fundraiser: The attendance was low but we made \$125 from the dine-out, and the Knox donated another \$75, and there was another cash donation that evening of \$20, so the total was \$220. Dana will talk with Jim at the Grouse House this week about setting one up there for a Wednesday or Thursday in April. Possibly next year we could coordinate it with the ski program.
- School Supplies Survey: A survey was sent out to the teachers. All the downstairs teachers have approved, but none of the upstairs teachers have responded as of yet. Dana will send out another email to all the teachers and one to the parents as well.
- Anti-bully Assembly Vote: Dana received approval for the Anti-bullying assembly grants for next October. For 2 daytime assemblies, the cost is \$1,297. We will get \$597 from Otis and \$350 from Sandisfield. With both grants, we are still \$350 short. The bill needs to be paid first and then we have to submit forms to the Otis and Sandisfield councils to get reimbursed. A vote was taken to approve the \$350. All approved. No one apposed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- Student Council Meeting/Reusable Silverware: (Mrs. Catullo) Linda and Jen Salzano attended the student council meeting last Thursday to share the reusable silverware kits with the students. The students are very excited about the project and have many more ideas about conservation that they would like to see change. The students of the council have a 2 week plan in which they will invite all students to deposit their plastic ware from lunch into a bin instead of the trash, so that when they receive their kits, they will hopefully not throw them away out of habit. They have made signs for reminders, and some students are volunteering to monitor the trash and reminding students when they clear their trays. Kendra is also making an announcement during lunch to remind them not to throw away the forks and spoons. The silverware kit distribution will start with 3rd through 6th grade. The student council is planning to track how much plastic is being thrown away before and after they receive their kits. Mrs. Catullo is keeping the plastic so that everyone can see the difference. One student is planning to make a sculpture with the plastic waste. We are also bringing it to the Earth Expo in April to display the progress. Jen Catolane is ordering 26, and they come with 2 sets per order, so that will give us 52 to start. We will have the children put their sets in a basket in the classroom upon arrival each morning, and the basket will be brought to the cafeteria at lunch time. Mrs. Catullo

is very appreciative of all the support she has been receiving from parents with the bake sale and advertising and organizing of events, etc., during this project.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Financial Update: Right now we have almost \$21,000 in our account. About \$8,000 of that is classroom accounts, and about \$7,000 of that is cash calendar prizes, so we are at about \$6,000 in our bank account.
- Box Tops: Box tops check came in for \$494, so the total for this year from Box tops is over \$700, which includes submissions from last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cash Calendar: Sales are going very well. Dawn order 300 more calendars.
- Author visit: Linda passed along Rhonda's contact info to Tom so that he could set up the visit. Teresa has information on a woman she met at a craft fair which has a deaf Dalmatian and she wrote a book about him. She's been on Oprah and other shows, and she does talks to schools. The cost is around \$300, plus travel from CT. The dog knows over 70 sign language commands. She does an interactive presentation with her dog to large or small groups. If we can't fit it in this year, we can look into booking her for next year as our visiting author.
- Tubing at Butternut: 3-5 this Sunday. 163 have responded as going. Dawn is taking care of all the details.
- Story Teller Rona Leventhal Vote: Mrs. Higgins spoke about her with us at the last meeting, and she shared some more information about the kinds of things she does. Mrs. Higgins is planning to have her visit the preschool classrooms. She will tell a story about world traveling. Rona is willing do two additional presentations, one for the older classes and one for the younger classes, as well as the separate one for the preschoolers, for an additional \$300. It will be scheduled for some time in March. A vote was taken to pay \$300 to make it a schoolwide presentation on top of what Nanette has booked. All were in favor of spending the \$300 (if we can't use the excess from the author grant to cover it).

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ski Program Pizza Party: Craig talked to Jamie and the last night of the ski program and pizza party will be held the Wednesday after the vacation week. Students can ski the Wednesday during vacation week after 4. Craig will check on the rental part for vacation week. Phil Magovern will pick up pizzas. Sarah Pease is available that evening for help with clean up. We will also need to pick up cookies and lemonade or cider. Craig can pick up the cookies and drinks. Aimee will get him the numbers.
- Read across America-Dr. Seuss's Birthday (March 2nd): Last year Meaghan Martin and Sarah Tracy organized the read-aloud and we gave them a small budget for supplies. Last year's expense on that was \$195. That may have included the goody bags that Aimee purchased last year. Aimee will not have time to do all the goody bags this year. Maybe we can do something different this year. Mrs. Catullo recalled that one year she was given some strong paper for the students to create Dr. Seuss hats. We can order the supplies for her so she can do that project with the younger students.
- March Madness budget: Laurie Flower had asked Aimee if we could give them a \$300 budget for March Madness. Last year's expense was \$355. We voted on an approximant budget of \$300. All were in favor. The vote passed.

- Baby Grand Piano Repair: The piano was able to be repaired. The bill was \$485. There was a vote to pay for the piano repair. All were in favor. The vote passed.

Next meeting: March 4, 2020 at 3:15.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00 pm. Craig motioned, Jennifer Catolane seconded.