

October 6, 2021

Meeting Start: 4:00 pm

September minutes were approved. Jenn Catolane motioned, Aimee seconded.

In attendance: Aimee Magovern; President, Dana Pustinger; Vice President, Jennifer Catolane; Treasurer, Linda Curtiss; Secretary, Jennifer Hibbins Salzano, Phil Magovern, Lyn Obrien, Cecily Goulange, Michelle Obrien Ransom, Meaghan Martin, Nanette Higgins, Susan Ebitz.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Sue Ebitz from the library: She wanted to thank the teachers and staff at FRRSD. The library had a \$3,000 Diversity Otis grant to put multicultural materials in the hands of the kids at school, and she worked with the teachers to make that happen. She is also looking for suggestions from parents about what they are most interested in for their children and what will get their kids most excited about the library. The library is currently applying for a Small Pilot Library grant, and is one of two libraries being considered for a 75% reimbursement for a new library. Regardless of whether or not they get it, she really wants to see our library reach out to the kids in the community. They will continue to put up story walks and things that would make the library more meaningful to the kids.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Financial Update: Our checking account is just about \$26,400. The teacher accounts are at \$442. That is what was left in teacher accounts at the end of September, so that will flow into the class that was with them last year. Our balance after classroom accounts is just over \$16,500. Membership fees, donations and Cash Calendar money is all coming in now.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Fall Fundraising update (Meaghan): Our total profit from pie and butter bread sales was \$2,947, which was about \$100 more than last year. We sold 468 total items which equaled \$7,368.95 in sales. It was about 50/50 online sales vs. paper orders. The sheet breaks down each child's sales and how it benefits the class, such as: one student sold \$241 worth of merchandise and the profit from that was \$96.40. Half of that goes to that classroom and the other half travels with the class. We owe \$892.42 on delivery. Meaghan has cash and checks from sales of about \$4,000 to get to Jenn. Delivery date is Friday, December 19th at 12:00. We have to check with Jenna to see if it is a Health day or PE day. Aimee will check with Tom to see if it is possible to switch it to a Health day if it is a PE scheduled day so we can use the gym. She will also check with Tom to see how many parents we can have there to help sort orders. Teachers won't be available to help if it is during learning time.
- Trunk or Treat (what are we giving out this year): Aimee will send a message to Jenn Catolane and Brittany Mackbach about what they will be purchasing to hand out. Jenn is also not sure where the PTA banner is. Nanette will look in the storage closet upstairs. The police dept. is going to get the prizes for the costumes, but we need to choose judges for the costume contest. We should have 3 or 4. We can ask Patricia from the Rec Center, maybe someone from the police dept. and someone from the library? Dana will take care of pinning down three judges. Photos will be posted on our Facebook page and judges will choose from there.
- Connect and Play Group update: Zach is organizing the play group event. The play group will be held next Tuesday from 3:00-5:30 behind the town hall. All will be masked and the PTA will provide a snack.
- Membership Drive Update: We have about 15 so far and a few have sent in an extra donation along with their form. Aimee will send out another reminder to try to get more members.
- Thunderbirds update: Tom gave Aimee his approval to do this event. Aimee will find out the dates to choose from.

- Cash Calendar update: Dawn has been connecting with sponsors and sending checks from sponsors to Jenn. We have \$1,250.00 in donations for the calendar prizes so far.
- Gaga Pit update: Phil is working on finding the mat for the pit.
- Ice Cream for the students: Aimee will email Tom and/or teachers to see what would work best for them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Anti-bullying update (Dana): Our original performer is no longer traveling, but he gave Dana the name of another person who can do the show. It may not be great for the older students, but we still feel it would be beneficial for all. The grants Dana applied for have been renewed since we never used them. His show costs \$695 so we would have to vote to pay the full \$695 and the Otis Cultural Council will reimburse us \$595, so we will only end up paying \$100. She also reached out to Casey Carl to find out about a family fun night performance, and we could use the Sandisfield Cultural Council funds for that. Dana asked Tom about a date in May, but MCAS happens in May, so he suggested June. It would be better to do it in the fall closer to the beginning of the year. However, assemblies are not being allowed right now. Dana will ask about February or March. A vote was taken on spending the money needed for the anti-bully show. All were in favor.
- Ski Program: The Otis Ridge is not charging us for last year's ski program. The invoice was for \$850. Jamie would like us to pass the savings on to the families. Right now we are paying \$25 per student and the families pay \$40. How should we split up the funds? Should we spread it out over two years or just use it for this year? What if PTA contributes \$35 this year and what's left over can go toward next year? A vote was taken. All were in favor of charging families \$10 less per student this year.
- The Holiday Shop (December 9th and 10th): Jenn Catolane has been running the Holiday Shop for the last couple of years, but if anyone is interested in taking it over, she would be happy to share the job with them. She is working on counting up the inventory right now and once she has that figured out, the shopping for this year can begin. The PTA will reimburse anyone who gets items for the shop. Michelle is interested in being involved this year and can also help shop this year.
- Staff Meal for Parent/Teacher Conferences on Oct. 21st: Last year we ordered from Fratelli's: pizza and salad, and a few people made deserts. Michelle will bake a desert. Food might need to be there by 4:30. Aimee will send an email to Tom to see how many people will be eating and we can order accordingly. Last year was around 5 or 6 pizzas plus salad. Aimee will take care of ordering but she can't be there to deliver or set it up. Cecily can pick up and set up but would like to have a helper. Linda can help with pick up and set up. We can get a few jugs of lemonade and cider and bring cups. The restaurant will provide the plates and silverware. Cecily will pick up drinks and she can also bake a desert as well.
- Explanation of the wreath fundraiser: The wreath fundraiser got turned over to the 6th grade fundraiser because they need to build up their account for their end of the year activities. We need to talk in the future about how the PTA can help so that the 6th grade isn't short on funds by the end of the year to pay for all their events. We are now, for the last few years, giving part of the Cash Calendar profits to each class, so the next few year's classes shouldn't fall so short, but this year's 6th grade is especially short because only one student out of the entire class sold any products for this fundraiser, and that is the trend for some classes, leaving their account low by the time they reach 6th grade. Aimee will put this discussion on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting: November 3, 2021 at 4:30 pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned: 5:20 pm. Jenn Catolane motioned, Dana seconded.