

**PTO Meeting Minutes**

**January 15, 2014**

**Attendees**: Jenn Richardson, Jenn Shea-Kettles, Heather LeBlanc, Stephanie Mongeon, Allyson Gill, Nicole Knudsen, Liz Leonard, Maureen Principe, Becky Schexnaydre, Shanna Paul, Stacey Kramer, Kathryn Bailey

**Review:**

* December Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved
* Treasurer Update

 We have $49,697.15 in funds. We spent $8,142.16**.** We spent $1,400 on Yoko,

 which is a Cultural Enrichment Event. There is $1,280 in grant money that was

 recently received that will go to the Cultural Enrichment budget.

* Communications Update:

LBMS Principal would like a presentation on cyber bullying and bullying. ARC (MA Aggressive Reduction Center) out of Bridgewater State provides presentations for students at no cost and a nominal cost for parents.

* Cultural Enrichment Update:

Would like to see 2 people running the Cultural Enrichment program next school year. It would be ideal to have someone available during the day to help performers and to help run the programs. Would like to have a meeting to talk about next year’s budget and Cultural Enrichment programs. Sean O’Shea and the teachers have said that they felt that all Cultural Enrichment events have been successful with the exception of the NED show, which wasn’t as they expected. May is when the CE schedule for next year should be complete. Will start planning in March, to finalize program calendar in May.

* Staff Luncheon:

Was a huge success. The teachers loved it.

**Planning:**

* MREads

Update from Liz Leonard who is the PTO volunteer for the MREads program. This year there is a school wide goal of 2,600 hours of reading. If goal is reached, then Sean and Laura will have a tricycle race for all the school to see. Each grade has a goal of hours to read. An on-line system called “Reading Rewards” will be used to track the students reading hours. This is the first year using the system. In previous years, reading hours were manually tracked on paper. After each child has reached their goal of minimum reading minutes, Liz will get an email that says the child should be rewarded with a prize. If a child does not have internet access, they can manually log their books. This year we are using the Fisher Cats. A child writes down a postcard with 5 books they read and they get 2 tickets to a Fisher Cats game. If you need additional tickets, you can purchase them for $9 each. The awards ceremony will potentially be on March 13th (date not confirmed), which is the same day as literacy night. Best Books will be there during the day and then again at night on March 13th. The class that has read the most books gets a prize from their teacher (i.e. extra recess, pizza party, etc). It is OK for kids to use their reading logs to log book hours.

* Parent Speakers
* *Charlie Applestein* – parent speaker to discuss strength-based approach (2/25/14) at 7pm. Will advertise using flyers for everyone in the district. Will also advertise in the newspapers. It will be in the auditorium.
* *Lynn Lyons* – parent speaker to discuss anxiety (4/1/14) at 7pm. Will advertise using flyers for everyone in the district. Will also advertise in the newspapers. It will be in the auditorium.
* *Sarah Ward* – executive function in 2014-2015 school year. She is a parent and executive functioning coach. Her presentations are on executive functioning. For example, how to set up your classroom, how to set up your bulletin board, how your classroom should flow, how the kids unpack their back, in order to better help kids with executive functioning challenges. A lot of kids don’t have executive functioning to make a plan for where they need to be. For example, tell your child to put on their shoes and some kids can’t envision it and execute the function. She will walk in the teacher’s classrooms and help them to redesign their classroom to help the kids. She put herself in a child’s seat that has Attention Deficit Disorder and looked from their perspective to try to move things around and help them. $1,650 for a two hour service and then an additional hour teacher presentation. There is also a parent night option available if Sean O’Shea and Lauren Friend choose. Sara would start in the beginning of the year. Anything on the wall should be a place where kids can get information. For example, what’s my sentence starter…kids can look on the wall and find that information. This would be open to all districts. It could become even bigger if other districts help in the cost. There was a ***motion to request Sara Ward not to exceed $2,500***. The $2,500 gives Sean O’Shea and Laura Friend extra money to design their own program with Sara Ward. Motion approved.
* Lip Sync:

 Will be March 6th and 7th.

* Summer Theater Program

Will discuss more in February.

* 5th Grade Band – Music teacher, Scott Rossley, is requesting $1,000 for the band competition. Next year this will be budgeted with payment in full from the Principal’s fund per representation of Sean O’Shea. This is the first year kids are attending this. Number of kids is 56, so this is $10 per person he is asking for the PTO to help fund. $2,112 is total cost with busses (which Sean is paying for). After discussion, Motion was made and seconded with unanimous vote by attendees to fund an amount not to exceed $1000.00 to Scott Rossley for the Jazz Band Trip with added intention for discussion with him as to potential additional fundraising and/or amendment of amount to be contributed by parents.
* MRE/LBMS Apparel

Displayed in the MRE case. Options for LBMS to see options: get samples or PTO can buy in bulk and sell at events like Lip Sync, MREads, LBMS play, etc. Then checks can be written directly to PTO. Stephanie Mongeon is not sure if she can get just a few samples. She may have to purchase a large amount. Order forms say blue and pink, so it may be a good idea to have a neutral color (gray, green) when we buy them in bulk and sell at school functions.

**Additional Items**

* Scholastic Book Fair

Luke Steer LBMS Librarian had trouble spending his Scholastic dollars for middle school appropriate books. He is asking to exchange his $1000 in Scholastic dollars for cash. Motion approved.