



HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2016

Board attendance included: Seema Meloni, Joanna Herrera, Stephanie Pearl

The meeting minutes from December 2015 were approved.

PTC President Updates

- Winter social was a huge success and the teacher experience raffle items were wildly popular; they alone brought in about \$2000 for the PTC
- Calendar Updates:
 - January 28th: Barre3 fundraiser
 - Feb 2nd: Walk/ride to school day
 - Feb 5th: Candy Bar Bingo Night (has since been moved to April 29th)
 - Feb 25th: Mom's Night Out event at The Kid's Place
 - March 4th: Hillside-Eliot Basketball game (has since been moved to March 18th)
 - March 8th-9th: Used book sale
- Creative Arts Budget:
 - Have thus far used \$5000 of the \$9000 budget to pay for author in residence
 - \$4000 remaining and discussing how to utilize in remaining school months
 - Will fund Dan Cripps, but working out other details

Volunteer Needs

- Media center – help out with your child's class when they go into media center to return and pick out new books
- Bingo Night
- Basketball game
- Talent Show Committee (April 8th)
- Calendar Raffle – looking for donations
- Spring Carnival (June 12th)
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch – need parents to cover classrooms, 10-12 parents helping in gym, families to cook food items
- Festival of Cultures (May 6th)

Treasurer's Update – Stephanie Pearl

- Currently in good financial status, over and above on some line items
- Party has helped cover shortfall from gift wrap fundraiser
- Gift book fundraising program working well
- Enrichment grants have about ~\$2800 left in budget
- For technology line item, Constant Contact has been paid through early 2017
- Have added line item in budget to cover screening of "Most Likely to Succeed", which is being sponsored by the NEF and 7 other Needham Schools; Hillside PTC handling payments through our bank account



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Grant Reviews

- Three grants approved:
 - 5th Grade Sculpture Project – John Walek (\$100)
 - Reading A to Z – Christina Tarantino (\$109.95)
 - Iuitarod, 5th Grade – Laura Miller (\$67.95)

Principal's Update

- Rate of tardiness has been very high since the beginning of the new calendar year
 - Peak was 13% late in first week of January and averaging about 60 children late each day
 - Partly space issues – please consider carpooling, about 80% of cars only have 1 child/car
 - Barbara Pitney trying to find out if other schools experiencing similar issues
- Hillside Space Issues
 - Today is the vote on Owen's at MSBA
 - Discussions on what to do inside/outside in Hillside space
 - Gym time requirements amount to about 6.5 days of gym space needed and school is only 5 days – parity issue, Mitchell/Hillside students are experiencing similar issues
 - Students are getting wellness study, but not full exercise time
 - Encourage parents to fill out NPS survey
 - Liz Lee followed up on behalf of Citizens for Needham Schools to request ideas how parents can have more conversations about state of schools
- MCAS
 - Topic of education has been lost in the current political election cycle
 - Many states dropping out of PARCC, including MA
 - MCAS will reflect some sections of PARCC
 - Needham schools generally level 2, with high school level 1 (which is where we want to get)
 - Hillside
 - Overall school at 71% (up from 64%)
 - ELA on target
 - Math going very well – more work on math writing
 - Sciences going very well, thanks, in part, to programs such as Let's Build, Lego League, and STEAM programming
 - Discussion followed about effect of writing on iPads and effect of taking tests electronically
 - School moving forward with Chromebooks