

Tuesday, June 17, 2025
5:30 - 6:30
Montpelier High School, Rm. 101

Board: Ena Backus, Chris Dorer, Caitlin Dreschler, Vic Guadagno, Mary Mello

Attending: Vic Guadagno, Eileen Shine, Edisa Muller, Ena Backus, Caitlin Dreschler

2025 MONTPELIER FALL FESTIVAL

Four High School students will be leading the Festival, scheduled for Saturday OCT 4. Natalie Remick is leading this committee which has met several times already with support from Edisa and Vic. Edisa suggested Vic might take lead on music. Ally has a new PA system. Discussion about what role PIE should play in organizing, with this new student-led initiative. For instance, who will be emcee? Maybe a Theater person? Last year Natalie did it, but there can be an advantage to having a dedicated person be the MC, rather than someone who is supervising the event to multi-task. What role should PIE play with the planning and how much should we let them do alone? We can share feedback from Onion River, etc. The student committee is already reaching out to sponsors, and might need to connect with Caitlin. **Vic will reach out to them to see where they are, and what support they will need, and will connect them with Caitlin regarding funding.** They are using the same spreadsheet as last year.

What other roles will be needed? Alice will do the raffle. Ena suggested she could take on a defined role for the Festival, though nothing specific was named.

School Reports

MHS: This year MHS PIE restarted Popcorn Wednesdays, and had an active Appreciation Committee. (5% will go to MRPS PIE.) Sponsored Race Against Racism, new PA system for the Music department, sponsored a senior project about mental health, helped pay for lodging for the Nordic team's championship tournament and began supporting the baseball families fundraising efforts (MHS PIE is managing their funds, which is run independently of PIE.) One MHS PIE meeting was held in the Fall with low attendance. We attempted to generate interest in fundraising efforts, but nothing manifested this year. There is potential in sports concessions, but it needs leadership.

UES - Held a few good events at the end of year: Movie night, Staff appreciation (Angela Shea headed), Pizza party for final staff meeting, Sno Cones for UES field day. Problem is that people don't know how to get involved. UES PIE Need a leader to emerge. In August Caitlin will reach out to the 3 potential people that emerged earlier this year to see if they can get something going for the future. Meet the principal night already happened, led by the school. Caitlin suggested that for people who want to have the ear of the principal, the caregiver council is an easier answer than joining/running a PIE group. Can we start the new year with recruitment and try again? There was interest this year, but a meeting never happened. What's the best way to connect people? Is it committees, meetings, list serves, etc? Rollerblades purchase has not

happened yet - Max has had trouble with the company, and may need to find another source. Will pick up again in the Fall.

School Garden plan needs to be created. Need to move the raised bed from Katie Swick's house to the school before her house is removed.

MSMS - A very active group, MSMS PIE held 2 fundraisers: Prom (\$7500) and Bingo night (small profit) They also run Popcorn Friday which is self-sustaining through GoFundMe.

- 8th grade Graduation, with PIE helping to organize and run the dance.
- 5th graders: trip to UVM women's basketball game in Burlington, VT
- 6th graders: trip to American Precision Museum and Garden of Life in Windsor, VT
- 7th graders: trip to see a movie as part of the Green Mountain Film Festival
- Several donation drives (food, supplies, used books)
- MSMS sticker contest and donation
- Donation to BIPOC summer camp
- Organized several socials and dances at the middle school
- Donation to 8th grade class trip to Boston
- Purchase of new AV equipment for dances and assemblies (speakers, tripods, lights)
- Sponsorship (entry fee) of all 7/8th grade students participating in Vermont History Day
- Donation to help students attend National History Day and help raising money through GoFundMe
- Organized staff appreciation events- breakfasts, snacks, notes of appreciation
- Maintenance of front planters at the middle school
- Assistance in packing first aid kits for teachers at the start of the school year
- Volunteering for Fall Festival
- Donation for Winter Carnival
- Donation for Field Day
- Sponsored breakfast for and proctored students participating in Math Counts event
- Supported Sustainability group with their maple syrup sales (website, admin support).

MRPS PIE FINANCIALS

5% Operating expense fee taken from fundraising began in January, and already PIE has collected over \$800. Caitlin is keeping it separate for now, to be used for special projects. Can an accountant be listed as a sponsor if they do a pro bono? Caitlin will be asking them if that is possible.

MRPS PIE account holds about the same amount of \$\$ as last year. Unknown yet the cost of the accountant.

COOP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Caitlin will sign up MRPS PIE for this program, as she already has to do the same for her job. Volunteers get a 6% HM Coop discount for 2 weeks, for each hour they work as a volunteer. This could be used for any PIE help, including our monthly meetings. This could be an incentive to get people to get involved, or to come to our meetings..

OTHER BUSINESS

Vic was approached by one of the MRPS social workers regarding a specific request for a student's family that was in need after losing one of their parents. She asked if PIE can donate \$300-\$500 for this? Caitlin suggested that they could use the Family Giving fund - she believes there are still VISA gift cards available. PIE is not allowed to get involved with specific cases the Fund is used for. Vic will recommend that she refer to Chris Parker who heads the fund. If that doesn't pan out, we could possibly donate this amount, with the amount to come from next year's fundraiser.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50. Next meeting: in the FALL.
Maybe the week school starts (Ena is gone Aug 18-25.)