



Date: February 2, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Alicia Kinney, Barbara Mirza, Michael Boylan, Patty Beck, J. Bachan Breiten, Tulasi Goli, Cindy Shane, Joanne Gonzalez, Heather Bluhm, Kim Murnin, Kathi Casper, Jan Schoenberg, Karis Nacher, Nicole Shaffer, Cathy Wickenheiser, Susan Stampien, Anne Whitbeck

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Alicia Kinney

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from December's meeting were distributed and perused. Alicia made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by J.B.B. and Mrs. Leonard and passed by everyone in attendance.

Committee Reports

Anne Whitbeck on Teacher Appreciation Committee

The winter gift collection for teacher supplies, which was held in lieu of individual gifts, had a tremendous turnout of contributions. The teachers at the meeting expressed how appreciative they were of supplies and all efforts. Next time, Anne is hoping to create a smoother process for redistributing the donations. Anne was extremely pleased by the participation of her committee. Thank you, Anne and Teachers Appreciation Committee.

A walking Taco Night is being planned for the teachers during Parent/Teacher Conferences held in the Spring. Patty suggested also including handmade cookies from Summit Cookie Company, a local business.

Which brought the discussion to budget for Teacher Appreciation. As of the meeting \$100 is in the budget for Teacher Appreciation. Jen B. B. suggested she could help with matching donations.

There are currently 75 teachers on staff at the Middle School. PTA members discussed re-allocating funding to the Teacher Appreciation account to allot for the amount of teachers and making it a more realistic budget. The amount of \$750 was suggested as a total. The motion to move \$650 to the budget was made by Patty and seconded by J.B.B. and then passed with 11 votes for yes and 0 for no. Efforts will be made by Alicia to compare this amount to last year's budget.

Teachers' Report on 8th Grade Field Trip

Mr. Boylan was excited to announce the decision of re-instating the 8th grade field trip. It is a 2 day field trip to Washington D.C., meant as a culmination of all the accrued teachings from 5th through 8th grade. The dates of the trip are as follows: 8 White Team May 12-13 and 8 Blue Team May 19-20. Departure will be 5 AM on Thursday morning and return will be 7pm Friday night. The \$300 cost of the trip is inclusive of hotel accommodations (Doubletree in Bethesda, Maryland), busing, Student Meals, Licensed Tour Guides, and evening security at the hotel.

Itinerary for the trip includes tours of U.S. Capitol Building (contingent upon COVID restrictions, might be outside only), Library of Congress, U.S. Supreme Court, and outside walking tour of the White House. Illuminated tour of the Monuments & Memorials (Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Korean War Memorial, WW2 Memorial, MLK Jr Memorial, FDR Memorial and Washington Monument), Arlington National Cemetery, National Archives and the Smithsonian Museums (Air & Space, American History, Natural History).

A nurse also accompanies the students in the event of any medical needs. There may be up to 12 parent chaperones, depending on remaining bus seating. The school has used this tour company in the past and have been pleased. If there is a COVID outbreak any money collected will be returned. There will be 3 payments, the 1st of which is due February 18th and the final one will be collected by April 13th.

In the past the PTA has helped with the costs incurred by the trip by contributing to things such as T-shirts and meal vouchers. Funds have been raised in the past by cash bingo. Fundraising aspect is concerning due to time constraints. The letter will go out to the 8th grade parents this Thursday. Owing to financial causes if all the students can't participate (due to finances) then the trip can't be offered. So, there will be a scholarship for the students in need, historically this number has been between 10-15 students including both the White & Blue teams. Once the letter regarding the trip has been distributed, families will be directed to reach out if assistance is needed. At that point turnout will be determined and amount of money needed.

Patty has been successful in being able to rent out a space to hold the Cash Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, March 13th, timing TBD. The fee for use of space is \$187.50, which Patty will need in check form. Also a \$100 deposit to be returned after the event is over. The venue also needs proof of liability with the Firehouse to be listed for insurance purposes.

Mrs. Bluhm mentioned that there should be team money reserved for the State Park trip and also field day hoagies, as there has been in the past.

Abington Angels

J.B.B. spoke of the success of the winter events. There was a total of 18 families who received a food pantry. Another Spring Pantry will go out to those same families in March. There were 58 individuals for the wish list, which is a contribution of \$105 per person.

And \$250 per family for the food pantry, which was partnered with Karam Orthodontics. Thank you for all the companies who participated and all individuals who contributed. J.B.B. estimated \$5,000 raised from January – December of 2021.

Presidents Report

Apparel Sales

Jan Schoenberg distributed Spring Apparel Sale flyers to meeting attendees. Unfortunately, 50% teacher discount won't be offered for this sale. The time range of this sale is end of February to beginning of March. Alicia and Jan discussed SOM/BUG award sweatshirts and gym bags. Mrs. Leonard suggested using this company because they are a local business. A teacher at the meeting brought up a very relevant point of being able to have a store of bottoms/pants at the school for students if there is ever a need for kids to need to change out of their bottoms for various reasons, including menstrual accident, holes, falling in mud/rain, etc. Jan S. will look into this, maybe offering a buy a pair/donate a pair option. Jan S. was careful to only offer clothing which meets the school dress code for the apparel sale.

Family Fun Night

As there was no chair for this Committee, Alicia volunteered herself for this role. In the past this has been a springtime event which has evolved to be more catered to the younger kids at the school. The suggestion was made for being more inclusive of all grade levels of moving the timing of this event to a more warmer time frame so that it may be held outside. If not, the inside is still a possibility. Alicia will look into this.

Kalahari

As there had been some interest for Kalahari tickets, Alicia will look into the possibility of selling tickets through the school.

Note From Treasurer

Alicia distributed a note from the treasurer to the members, which was reviewed and acknowledged. Alicia apologized if meetings were not conducted properly from her end and if everyone was not heard as they wanted to be. Alicia vowed to do better in the future moving forward. From here on in when someone is speaking there will be no interruptions until the speaker is done, to be respectful to everyone.

Treasurer's Report

Due to a last minute occurrence, Jen Knott was unable to attend the meeting, but passed on all relevant reports and information.

January 2022

Beginning Balance \$16,689.14

No withdrawals

Deposits \$120 (\$100 Teacher Appreciation Donation, \$20 Membership)

Ending Balance \$16,809.14

Outstanding Checks \$35.00

Total Net Income \$120.00

The Texas Roadhouse Cards purchased earlier may be used for dine-in night on February 17th.

Principal's Report

Points from Mrs. Leonard:

- February marks the celebration of Black History Month at the Middle School.
- Report cards will be distributed on Monday, conferences February 21st-23rd
- Jersey Day will be 2-22-22
- There will be a universal pilot screener for 5th and 6th graders starting this month

Announcements

Kathi announced a donation will be started to give to Sloan Kettering in Mr. McGary's late wife's name via Venmo. And a sympathy card was passed around for all to sign for Mr. McGary.

Next Meeting

6:30 March 1st, Middle School Cafeteria

Motion to adjourn was made by Alicia at 7:33pm and passed unanimously.