

**PTO Meeting – March 3, 2025 – Call to order: 7:08PM**  
**Mot. to adjourn 8:28: C. Cooper, sec. D. Ruth**

**Attendees: T. Gilbert, J. Ramalho, A. Cakounes, S. Sullivan, C. Cooper, B. Hubbard, Diana Lebeaux, Brenna Thornton, Rashmi Rao, Denille Ruth, Audrey Schwinn, Liz Haugner, Meghan Wynn,**

- Review and approval of Feb. meeting minutes
  - o Motion to Approve: D. Ruth, sec.: B. Thornton
- Principal/VP Topics – Super Busy
  - o Global play day – positive feedback, plan to continue in future years
  - o Enrichments – Learning the ropes, one man band, Try it Tuesday – raw zucchini wasn't great; dried cranberries on the way, Lights and Lasers gr. 4, Meteorologist gr. 1, Science Fair
  - o Early release day – Feb cancelled, making it up in April
  - o Incident Management team – ALICE drills and real events
    - Plan, debrief, develop protocols – includes info from district level
    - Used the alert system (lights) at last week's ALICE drill – set up for places that are busy and loud to make sure the intercom gets heard
  - o Looking forward
    - Tons of enrichment, new things included, old things brought back March 19 – gr. 4 – Boston symphony
    - Dental presentation K/Gr. 1
    - National Nutrition month, breakfast week, youth art month
      - Weds. 3/5 – youth artwork on display at Chelmsford Public Library; on display all month
      - 3/6 pajamas; 3/7 workout gear
    - March 12 - ½ day – professional development – department specific across the district
    - Book Fair!
    - March – start placement for next year – input form will be coming out soon; transitions for 4<sup>th</sup> graders
    - Whole school reward at end of month – fun surprise planned
- Diana Lebeaux – School Committee
  - o Budget approved for upcoming school year – tight as forewarned
    - Town is taking slightly less than the \$3.5 mil expected hit, but school is less affected; need to be conservative for a few years
    - Major shifts: McCarthy school – letting some positions lapse and bring in new positions
    - No dramatic shifts in programming etc., no huge collapse of anything
    - Can see the budget at town meeting or in the notes from the school committee meeting
    - TBD if supplies will be provided next year; likely based on surplus in other line items
  - o Concerns re: national climate and what that means for our community
    - Sudden huge shift away from SEL and equitable/equity
      - Statements from state level assuring that MA will continue to build communities that are welcoming and safe for all students
    - Monitoring for any budgetary concerns because of federal issues
  - o April 4 – town election, 3 candidates for school committee roles
- Treasurer's Update
  - o Not much to report since last month
  - o \$5k MA cultural society – paying for Playful Engineers

- o Ribbons for science fair, chips for book fair bingo, passports for Multicultural festival
  - o Reward bin PBIS – camping bin
  - o **Insurance** – up for renewal in next 15 days – currently \$565 annually; PTO Today is about \$200 more annually, but it covers a lot more – more than double for most line items + additional perks and resources; not necessarily required for our purposes
    - **DECISION: maintain current policy + increasing bond coverage and removing inland marine – Mot. to approve: D. Ruth, sec. E. Hubbard**
  - o **Newhouse Wildlife - \$250 donation for gr. 2 enrichment – Mot. to approve: D. Ruth, sec. A. Schwinn**
- Community Read-in – most classes have someone coming in to read to the class throughout the week; not a classroom parent
- River Hawks Family night - \$1090 raised, 218 tickets – sold out and added additional section
  - o Look into doing it again next year
- Book Fair
  - o Volunteers needed for setup on Thursday afternoon and help kiddos with purchasing;
  - o Teacher preview day on Friday so folks can see teacher wish list boxes and donate to classroom;
  - o Clean Sweep prize;
  - o Encouraged not to sign up for a timeslot to shop with your kiddo – volunteer separately;
  - o Sign Up Genius to come out in next Homelink and on PTO website; Family shopping night Wednesday 5:30-7:30
  - o Contingency plan in place for internet issues – S. Sullivan Hot spot available; maybe another available from CPL
  - o Discretionary “tax” fund to be donated by D. Ruth et al.
- Multicultural Festival – April 5
  - o Some tweaks/improvements - Registration start at 12:30; more rigid time line; selfie station/photo booth
  - o Food trucks TBD; family food donations
  - o Can be country of origin or country of interest
- Sunshine Dance and Ginormous Basket Raffle
  - o Teachers started choosing basket themes today; volunteer email hopefully to go out this week – parent coordinator for each classroom to gather donations and put basket together
  - o Each kiddo gets one free ticket
- Enrichments – Newhouse Wildlife, Dental Presentation, Prof. Bugman, Playful Engineers, Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Fundraising
  - o Cards for a Cause – tabled until next fall;
  - o Spirit Wear sale to happen in the spring, hoping first week of April
  - o Police Car ride with Ozzie raffle – winner +1
  - o Dr. Lang and his bus – fall?
- Ms. Semenza is looking for fourth grade field day coordinator
- No Senior breakfast this year – seniors want to do something different this year
- Adjust the website to include compliance section – bylaws + non-profit info, reports, forms; C. Cooper to bring it up at the COCS level
- Box Top sweepstakes – on website; posted in Homelink – google form to compile ideas, parent committee, Admin/staff committee
- Thursday, May 29 – Author’s Day – 9:30ish – kiddos get to share their written work
- Friday May 9 – last all-school movie night of the year, 4<sup>th</sup> grade movie night TBD