

Welcome to Conant School PTO



Jan 20, 2016 – PTO General Body Meeting Minutes

Meeting Commenced: 8:50 a.m.

Board Members Present for General Body Meeting: Amy Happ, Jennifer Jones-Hodgson, Elise Calisi, Abigail Dressler

Chairpersons Present / Parents Present for General Body Meeting: Ranjini Reddy, Michelle Brown-Droese, Sheetal Kulkarni, Jing Zhang, Ezili Mayo-Joseph.

Welcome – Jennifer Jones Hodgson welcomed the group.

PTSO/PTO Update - Jennifer Hodgson described AB District PTO Chairs meeting Jan 19. Comm Ed gives back from the programs they run here (extended day and enrichment program). Increase in budget is expected to be steady in coming years. Annual giving balance is about 11K right now. Minuteman Tech has a situation with towns pulling out support due to low enrollment.

Approval of November 2015 Minutes - The minutes of the October meeting were presented for review and approved.

First motion to approve minutes – Amy Happ

Second motion to approve minutes – Ezili Mayo-Joseph

Treasurer's Report – Ranjini Reddy gave the update. \$20,400 currently spent; 23K roughly left to spend. Kidstuff coupon books made about \$1200. Need a STEM activity to accept \$250 from parents' company. A grade-level teacher could propose to obtain the funding for their academic plans. Teachers encouraged to use FinComm funds for whatever they need for classrooms.

Kindergarten Tours – adequate volunteers

Ice cream social update – We will need volunteers. We want to present the Annual Fund and Open Positions at the ICS. Increase ticket price is proposed. Hand out flyers. Everything is on Google Drive.

Classroom gifts update – Ezili is taking the lead on getting the classroom gifts. Trying a new pottery studio in Nashua, N.H.

Cultural Enrichment - 2 programs are coming. Debbie Dawson reaching out to the groups. Boston Improv (grades 4-6) "The 4 C's" and Japanese Masks (grades K-3) Storytelling tied in w/ the art. Hip Hop assembly was really popular and well received. 6th grade interviews of Ill Style going to Beacon.

PTO event updates

Movie nights – May 6 drop off (3 or 4-6) and May 13 (K-2 or 3). Will need more chaperones for drop off event. High School students could possibly help out.

Games night – Good turnout, very exciting. Profit is half of sales. PTO offers new games to classrooms. \$294 net profit for PTO. (It's a community event, not a fundraiser though there is usually a profit)

Annual Giving – Directory and Magnets – Directory went home with thank you note. Magnets can go home with children. We also need tax-exempt letters (or e-mails to those who gave donations to PTO in 2015). We also need to provide thank you notes/letters to all 2015 donors for tax purposes.

OPEN Positions for next academic year – breakfast w/ families Feb. 5 (cancel). Next one will be May 20. Get a list of open positions; make a document (they're on Google Docs), send home with students.

Spring fun activity – Maybe a trivia night for the kids or a game show type thing. Kids want to do variety show again (there's value in being consistent plus it brought in 4K).

Principal's Update – Abigail Dressler gave the update

1. MCAS schedule will go up on the Conant website in March/April.
2. The long comprehension for grade 4 will no longer be administered.
3. The new MCAS, MCAS v2.0, will be piloting PARCC test questions for each grade. In addition the PARC writing prompts will be incorporated into the MCAS.
4. The recent bomb threats that have been in the news was covered next. None of the AB schools have received any threats. Acton police and fire department and the superintendent's office have responded to these recent events and a full response plan is in place for Conant.

Motion to adjourn: Amy Happ

Meeting ended: 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting March 23 7:30 p.m.

Minutes Typed By: Elise Calisi