



## **March 21st, 2018 – PTO General Body Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Commenced:** 8:35 a.m.

**Board Members Present for General Body Meeting:** Jane Archer, President; Lin Zhang, Treasurer; Kristin Kenny, Secretary.

**Teachers, Parents, Guests Present for General Body Meeting:** Mary Tsacoyeanes, Elise Calisi, Sara Wilcox, Ezili Mayo-Joseph, Michelle Manchanda, Veena Kamath, Erin Blankenship, Missy LoPorto, Vicki Holland

**Welcome** – Jane Archer welcomed the group. Introductions were made. Mr. Sugrue was absent.

**Approval of January 18th, 2018 minutes** - The minutes of the *January 18th, 2018* meeting were presented for review and approved without edits.

First motion to approve minutes – Michelle Manchanda

Second motion to approve minutes – Erin Blankenship

**Principal's Update** – Damian Sugrue was absent.

**Budget Approval 2018-2019**– Jane Archer gave the update. Discussed the revised budget for approval. Jane explained the change in classroom assistants for next year. As a result, the PTO will not be required to fund the assistants. Jane also explained other budget changes. They were very minimal but the gardening budget was doubled. Jane hopes to bank more and spend more. We will have to figure out ways to raise more money on events. The PTO just bought snow shoes for all of the K-3 classes. Mary Tsacoyeanes discussed how great this is for the children.

Final budget amount is \$32,820. Jane moved to approve the budget.

First motion to approve budget-Lin Zhang

Second motion to approve budget-Vicki Holland

**PTO Survey Results**-Jane Archer gave the update on the results. The goal was to determine what the favorite events are and how the PTO can improve them.

Most popular: 1. Ice Cream Social 2. Book Fair 3. Movie Nights

Feedback: Most people enjoyed everything. They mentioned community building, family bonding and they really appreciate teacher attendance/involvement.

Suggestions for improvement: Start events earlier. Space out events more. Pay for everything all at once at the beginning of the year. Parent/faculty party at the end of the year. PTO could improve communication.

**Volunteers** -Jane spoke. Lower grades need to engage more. Really need to get the message out explaining what the PTO does and why we need their help and money. It's always the same volunteers. Mary Tsacoyeanes let everyone know that she spoke at the faculty meeting about getting teachers to reach out to parents. Erin Blankenship and Vicki Holland suggested PTO target incoming Kindergarten parents to explain how they can help and get involved.

**Finance Committee Update-** Christine Russell and Steve (didn't get a last name) updated us regarding town finance situations. To summarize, the key conclusions were that overrides are coming in the next 2-5 years (Our capital needs for town and school facilities will require one or more overrides in the coming years. Without a change in spending, operating overrides may become necessary as well). Borrowing should happen sooner not later. ( Costs will likely be higher if we wait and interest rates are currently near historic lows).

**Other Business** – Jane discussed upcoming School Committee elections. She also mentioned that there are three retiring teachers. Mrs. Tulp, Mrs. Luttati and Mrs. Tibbets. Wondering what ideas we had for gifts/parties. Pottery pieces were mentioned. Jane also announced that Veena would be heading up the Book Fair.

First motion to adjourn – *unrecorded*

Second motion to adjourn – *unrecorded*

Meeting Adjourned: *9:40 a.m.*

Minutes Typed By: *Kristin Kenny*