

Clarke PTO Meeting

November 12, 2015 8:45am @ Clarke Middle School Cafeteria

In attendance: Alison Arshad, Jennifer Velis, Anna Monaco, Laurie Buchta, Kara Brandes, Kathleen Lenihan, Patricia Holguin, Helane Silverman, Alex Xia, Betsy Wilkinson, Trish Wesiberg, Lori Benjes, Xiumei (Carrie) Wu, Heather Tashjian, Chitra Sundar, Kiruthika Ramakrishnan, Kristen Reed

- October 2015 PTO Meeting Minutes Approved

- Principal's Report, Principal Monaco
 - Mini-Grant Proposals: There were 18 staff mini-grants brought to the table totalling \$5016.50. Many were for WIN block and club projects. Mini-grants were discussed, voted upon and approved.
 - Conference sign ups using Sign Up Genius are underway.
 - New full-time 8th grade math teacher has been added due to size of 8th grade class (299 students currently).
 - 8th grade Washington, DC trip meeting took place. Info is on the website.
 - PTO-sponsored scholarships are available. Families in need of scholarship should let Mrs. Monaco know.
 - LEF Trivia Bee was very fun. Clarke had 4 teams competing, two of which were PTO-sponsored.
 - Homework policy - Superintendent Czajkowski is looking for feedback from the schools regarding the policy. The middle school section of the policy is in the Clarke handbook; the entire policy is on the website.

- Treasurer's Report, Kiruthika Ramakrishnan
 - Kiruthika provided a review of the Profit and Loss sheets.
 - Update – Membership has done a good job following up with families who have not signed up.

- PPC Meeting/Debt Exclusion Vote Report, Kathleen Linehan

- Town Meeting members will have to approve the vote, first on Dec. 2nd and then in March (about 2 week prior to when the debt exclusion vote would subsequently take place).

- Debt exclusion vote will be in either last week of March or first week of April.
- Debt exclusion campaign will need many volunteers.

- Updates

- Clarke Night Out, Patricia Holguin - the event will probably be on March 11, 2016 at Waxy O'Connor's. Looking for help on auction.

- Spirit Wear, Betsy Wilkinson - the sale of Clarke Spirit Wear made between \$1000-\$1200. Thanks to all who supported!

- METCO Potluck - a few venue changes but will be held tonight in Mattapan.

- Socials - things went smoothly and well for the 6, 7 and 8 grade socials

- Magazine Drive, Kathleen Lenihan - the drive made over \$4200 for the PTO.

Thanks to all who supported!

- Parent Information Session - Clarke & Diamond are co-sponsoring talk by Amy Cody on the 17th. Subject matter relates to how to talk to your children about body image.

- Directory, Kathleen Lenihan - directory has the information of all but 19 students.

- Upcoming Meetings and Events

- 2015-2016 PTO Meetings - Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9

- Upcoming Events: Nov. 12 - METCO Potluck (6:30-8:00pm) Mattapan; Nov. 17 - Challenge Team Sponsored Breakfast; Nov. 17 - Parent Information Session: Hollywood vs. Home (7-8:30pm) auditorium; Nov. 18 - Clarke Newcomer Reception (7pm) cafeteria; Nov. 20 - NO SCHOOL (conferences); Nov. 25 - ½ day (11:45am dismissal); Nov. 26 & 27 - NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving); Dec. 4 - ½ day (conferences); Dec. 4-11 - Book Fair