

**Clarke PTO Meeting Meetings**  
**March 10, 2016 – Clarke Middle School**

Attendance: Principal Anna Monaco, Jennifer Velis (PTO Co-President), Alison Arshad (PTO Co-President) Christie King, Trish Weisberg, Kiruthika Ramakrishnan (Treasurer), Stephanie Mitzenmacher (Secretary), Chitra Sundar

- Meeting called to order by Jennifer Velis at 8:38 am.
- Jennifer Velis made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Trish Weisberg. Motion to approve minutes was unanimous.
- Principal's Report – Principal Monaco
  - Assistant Principal Jen Turner is a finalist for one of the middle schools in Reading. School Psychologist Mary Newmar will be retiring.
  - The schools are beginning the hiring process for the upcoming school year, 2016/17. There will be an additional ½ team for the 6th grade. The school will be looking to hire an additional Spanish teacher. School administrators are waiting for Town Meeting to post the budget to determine monies available for new hires.
  - The first week in April will be "Respect for All Week." This program is a follow up to "Rachel's Challenge." Students will lead activities daily.
  - The Costa Rica trip was cancelled, however 33 students were able to go as a non-school sanctioned trip chaperoned by parents.
  - No JV sports at the Middle School. There have been recent discussions about "cancelling" JV sports at both Diamond and Clarke. Principal Monaco explained that the school was continuing to look at the enrollment numbers to see if there were enough students to keep teams. There were parent concerns about the process behind cancelling these programs but Principal Monaco stressed that the decision was simply due to participation levels and that afterschool sports programs would be evaluated on a year-to-year basis. The take away from the issue was that the schools could do a better job communicating the issue to the parents.
- Treasurer's Report – Kiruthika Ramakrishnan
  - Amazon Smile program brought in \$25.
  - General donations and School Directory Sales went over projected amount.
  - General Fundraising is down but there is hope that this will be made up with Clarke Night Out.
  - The Assistant Principal's discretionary account is over budget.
  - The fundraising money for the Stop & Shop program is pending. Alison Arshad will check in on that.
- Clarke Night Out Update – March 11, 2016 @ Waxy O'Connor's

- The event is sold out.
  - Highlights will include a live band after the event, surprise live auction items, and the wine pull which will include a 30-year-old bottle of wine.
- PPC Meeting – Jennifer Velis & Alison Arshard
    - Debt Exclusion: The vote is May 3rd. The Campaign kick-off is March 15th. The YES! Campaign currently needs volunteers for phone banking, lawn sign hosts, and sign holders.
- Other PTO Business – Jennifer Velis & Alison Arshard
    - The PTO is looking to fill board positions for the 2016/2017 School Year. Messages will be sent out to the community to recruit new board members and retain current members.
- Upcoming PTO Meetings:
    - Meetings held at 8:45 in Clarke Cafeteria: April 14, May 19 (note date change), June 9th.
- Upcoming PTO Events:
    - March 16 - Parent Information Session: Collaborative Learning and the Common Core (8:45-9:45am; cafeteria)
    - March 24 - 1/2 day (11:45 dismissal)
    - March 25 - No School
    - April 7 - Parent Information Session: Meet Lexington's new Superintendent (8:45-9:45am; cafe)
    - April 12 - Atlantis Team-sponsored Breakfast – sign-up genius updated for breakfasts. Noted that breakfast items that teachers can take "one-the-go" greatly appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Meeting Minutes prepared and submitted by Stephanie Mitzenmacher (Secretary) on 4/11/16.