

Clarke PTO Meeting

1/11/18

In attendance: Patricia Holguin, Tricia Weisberg, Wendy Riseborough, Brenda Haris, Tara Fleming Caruso, Jane Kennedy, Xiumei Carrie Wu, Jennifer Velis, Sasha Sharif, Christina Cohen.

Meeting called to order at 8:36 AM.

Last month's minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Trish Weinberg

Income

- Picture day checks came in: \$3300
- Helena's check came in: \$230
- Magazine drive: \$2000
- Mini grant came in: to support BARK events throughout year

Expenses

- ACT program for language week \$900.
- Walk and Roll: Donated cups.
- Principals discretion: Ordered plaques for rewards.

Book Fair Report: Wendy Riseborough

- Hopefully earned \$950 through Book Fair.
- Successful socially as well as monetarily; teachers really enjoyed. Good feedback.
- Bowman changed vendors: Scholastic. Something to consider for next year.
- Wendy/Carol planning on running fair next year as well.
- Gift cards were great new initiative.
- Raffle a very positive element to the event.
- How do we get books that kids asked for that we did not have? It was easy to restock, but this piece was not simple.
- Idea: next year donate a basket of books from the book fair to Clarke night out.

Membership: Patricia Holguin

- Selling "Clarke Night Out Tickets" on MSA.
- Still deciding on ticket price. Tickets will go on sale February 12th
- Start at \$35 for early bird sales. Then \$45 dollars after a cutoff date.
- Auction items will be less than last year; ticket prices slightly higher.

Principal's Report: Anna Monaco

- Teacher luncheon 1/11/18
- Evaluation of the daily schedule project launching 1.5 year long process. Visioning: what do we image our students to be doing in 5 years. What will the day look like?
 - There is a desire to keep WIN block.
 - Goal of creating a pace that feels calmer to the teachers and the students.

- Schedule Committee: Clarke/Diamond teachers and administrators; plus 1 parent and student rep from each school. Will begin their work in the Spring.
- LEF grant approved: 6 teachers out next week at a 3 day training. Diamond sending 6 as well as teachers going from every elementary and the HS.
- Info from police about Vaping devices.
 - Anna and police department sent joint letter to teachers. Will inform parents as well.
 - The vaping pens are small; look like thumb drives. “Juu!” brand. Can buy them on Amazon. Not easy to detect because the smell can be disguised with fruity or benign aromas.
- Anna was informed about an app for parents called “BARK”. Alerts parents to bullying, drug use, suicidal ideation. Signing up for the app can also double as a school fundraiser. If you get 200 parents to sign up, the school gets 5K in a kickback.

Fundraising: Jennifer Velis

- Bertucci’s Clarke night: lunch/dinner/take out.
- “Clarke Night out”
 - Starting to get some good silent auction items.
 - Still looking for volunteers to work at event.
 - Save the Date going out.

Communications: (Report deferred until next meeting)

Miscellaneous:

- International potluck night March 8th. Set up/clean up volunteers needed. Parents bring the food. No sign up. Event is for parents and kids.
- PPC update:
 - Looking for superintendent.
 - 2 seats open on school committee. 3 year terms. Election day is March 5th.
 - Lex #10 out of 16 towns in terms of expenditure per student. Lexington spends 18K per year/per child. Weston #1 at 24K.
- Showing of “Screenagers”: April 3rd.
 - Film followed by panel discussion.
 - Presented in conjunction with Diamond and Lexington High School.
- Shop at Wilson Farm for Clarke: January 18th.
- Vendor fair for summer camps: January 27th.
- Next mtg on February 8th
- March mtg switched from evening to morning.

Mtg adjourned at 9:29 AM.

Submitted by Tara Fleming Caruso

