Cobbles Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2023

Present: Cara Acker, Robyn O’Grady, Joslin Buhrman, Amy Kauffman, Mindy Staba, Amanda Freeland, Allison Trawinski, Nicole Whitehead, Reed Sanchez, Mariana Barry, Gina Geraci, Ashley Leiber, SaraJane Deisinger, Alisha McNally

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

Approval of September Minutes: Mindy Staba, Gina Geraci

**BOE Report: Gina Geraci for Nicole Doyley**

-Special report from the STEAM Director regarding a new 7th and 8th grade textbook that is more experiment based with less text and includes all science disciplines

-Dr. Potter discussed Superintendent’s Conference Day, where the NYS Education Department approved new DEI guidance on 8/9/23.

-Dr. Driffil discussed next steps in the potential sale of district-owned land on Atlantic Avenue.

-One speaker for public comment: concerns about e-buses and whether the fire department has been contacted since fighting fires on e-buses is different than traditional gas buses. Dr. Putnam will follow up.

-Health and Safety Committee Meeting was attended by BOE member Dr. El-Amin Turner. She was impressed with how thorough they are regarding playground safety and depth of mulch.

-Two of many new pieces of NYS legislation discussed at the Legislative Committee Meeting: Lunar New Year will be a school holiday beginning in 2025, looking to decrease the number of school lockdown drills to once a school year.

**Principal Report: Nicole Whitehead, Mariana Barry**

-Nicole attended a transportation study meeting where all principals voiced concerns. The district is short on buses and drivers.

-Duct taping the principals was a massive success!

-Pumpkin peekaboo game for teachers: Take selfie when a teacher finds a pumpkin around the school, prizes given at Halloween parade

-The Halloween parade will be attended by all grades. Grades 1-5 will cheer on the kindergarten marchers.

-Veteran’s Day Celebration: car parade, crafts and letters by Caring Council

-Red Ribbon Week next week: Theme days include neon, crazy hair and socks, jersey, pajama and Cobbles/Penfield gear

-Theme weeks will take place once a month.

-Student Council: a lot of interest from 4th and 5th graders, will meet during lunch

-The Book Fair will take place in the library. Each class will have an assigned 30-minute block to shop between 9:25 and 12:55 both days (11/7-11/8). Each student will receive a book which removes the need for teacher discretionary fund envelopes.

-Harvest of the Month was very successful and will continue throughout the school year.

-Field Trips: having trouble finding funds for 5th grade Seabreeze trip since it’s 1/6th of the school’s entire field trip budget. Each grade level will provide a wish list and Mrs. Whitehead will price them out.

**Teacher Report: Reed Sanchez**

-Questions and concerns from teacher regarding the teacher raffle that was discussed last meeting. There are a lot of newer teachers that aren’t familiar with the event.

**Committee Reports**

Movie Night: Sign-ups are open to everyone and are posted on Facebook and ParentSquare

Fun Run: Grand total raised: $28,064

Room Parent

-Every class has a room parent. All can now use ParentSquare to communicate to families.

-Seven room parents have not purchased a PTA Membership. Each parent needs to be a member as part of PTA bylaws. If they have not become a member by the end of October, they will be replaced. Alisha McNally suggested sending the QR code home with the student to sign up.

-We need a new coordinator for next year.

-Miss Sanchez will email teachers to see if they are being supported by their room parent.

**PAB Report: Joslin Buhrman**

-A list of school facilities and vendors is needed.

-There are two parcels of land the district owns. The first is 32 acres on Atlantic Avenue but only 12 acres are usable due to swamp land. The district is looking to sell and have the proceeds go towards capital projects. The second is 65 acres on Gloria Drive. This land could potentially be a new school in the distant future.

-Enrollment is currently up. Enrollment modeling completed six years ago was off by one student.

-UPK: not moving into schools due to lack of room, has to remain a lottery but may become need based

-SEPTA becoming part of PTA?

-PTA meetings may have a high school student attend for childcare purposes.

-Constant Contact: some schools still use it but there is a lot of confusion behind it. Scribner is the billing contact.

-SquareOne: Confusion as to whether funds come from Arts in Education or PTA budget. 5th grade tiles are paid for by Arts in Education budget since they become a permanent part of the school. Dr. Putnam will follow up.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

-Screen Smart Week: Allison Trawinski will take over with Cara Acker helping out.

-World Language Program: January/February

-Yearbook: January, Joslin Buhrman has offered to take some pictures.

-PTA Bulletin Board

-Mrs. Whitehead is looking for someone to hang up birthday pictures the end of each month.

-Amanda Freeland and SaraJane Deisinger expressed interest in helping out with bulletin board and birthday pictures.

**Misc.**

-Cassandra Nickels has been trained to be our Website Coordinator.

-Cameron has a school picture and will be featured on all class composite photos.

-Happy 50th Birthday to Mrs. Whitehead on 11/14!

-Robyn O’Grady is required to wear her Seabreeze sweatshirt to November’s meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Cobbles Library and Zoom