

PTO Minutes
12/05/16

Attendance: Christine Philips, Melissa Taylor, Sandy Carroll, Stephanie Lepage, Melissa Staunton, Lisa Hayward, Susan Welch, Kate Winiarski, Debra Dudack

Enrichment Updates: Play Me a Story, Suzy Kline, and Hip Hop Dimensions all ran smoothly. There are no acts scheduled for December. Leslie Johnson will be at McAlister and Teresa Whitaker will be Spaulding early next year. We have received a grant from the Hartford Jewish Foundation to cover part of the cost of Number the Stars at McAlister. Julianne Williams has offered to chair the grants committee and plans to meet with school principals and lead teachers to get a wish list.

President's Report: Planning to meet with the principals this week about the January Book Fair at Spaulding and the book chats in grades 2-5, among other things. The book chats need start dates.

Vice President's Report:

- **Fundraising:** We are still looking for a spring fundraiser. A number of options are under consideration including fundraisers with local farms, a luau, a paint night, and Munson's chocolates. After discussion, the PTO is planning to pursue a paint night and chocolate sales.
- **Harvest Hustle:** The event was a huge success and pulled in \$3,042 after expenses. We are now evaluating successes and opportunities for improvement with registration and other aspects for next year.
- **Veteran's Day Celebration:** The reception after the assembly at McAlister went great. Parents donated plenty of items. Thank you! We are looking to simplify the process of signing up for donations next year. Next year, the PTO will also be helping Spaulding with its event, along with providing continued support to McAlister's event.
- **Art to Remember:** The event is on track and orders are due to arrive later this week. There was about \$11,000 in sales between the two schools resulting in a \$4,000 profit from the fundraiser.
- **Traditions:** The events are all booked and ready to go for early next year. We are awaiting flyers for approval which will be sent out to parents.
- **Class Baskets:** These are on track. Plan to do the advance raffle ticket sales again as pre-sales were a huge success last year.

Treasurer's Report: Our budget is on track with money coming in to cover recent enrichment expenses. The Harvest Hustle profit number is lower on the treasurer's report compared to what was reported from event chairs; however not all proceeds have been tallied on the treasurer's report yet so they are expected to align.

Secretary's Report: Thank you notes and emails will soon be sent to the chairs and volunteers of the Veteran's Day reception, Art to Remember, and the Harvest Hustle.

New Business:

- **Merchandise:** We have \$1300 in sales online.
- **Earn to Learn:** The Amazon Smile program is up and running. We plan to advertise it more on Facebook and via email. Shoprite renewals have increased but are still low from last year. Shoparoo is also still going and will be advertised. There is a Box Top app that is helpful in generating funds. We plan to advertise that on social media and by email as well.

- Box Tops: The first drive was successful. A \$1200 check is expected in December with additional proceeds to be sent in the next check. Planning additional drives in January-February and in May-June.
- Family Game Night is all set.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11 at 7:15pm in the McAlister Media Center. All are welcome!