

PTO Meeting January 7, 2015

1. Co-presidents Greeting

--Introductions

--Recap of last month

cookie decorating went well

Raffle had 2 wins

Coat drive doing very well—ends on Friday

Craft fair did well—the totals aren't in yet—Lori says we probably won't be doing it again next year.

2. Principal's remarks—

Advisory council—Matt Cooke won the election. Meetings are open to anyone.

3. Special Guest: Berit Pratt, RN, BSN, MPH Founder of NitWits—Talk about headlice

--Berit gave a very informative presentation about headlice and headlice prevention

More information can be found on her website: <http://www.liceinfo.net/>

4. Committee updates:

a. **Teacher reps:** Alicia Coletti—follow up on technology training. Dan Gillis is the new Technology chair, and he is going to help with training teachers. He will attend an upcoming faculty meeting.

b. **Fundraising**—Molly Gillis—over \$6,000 collected so far for the Annual Fund

c. **Hospitality**—Erin was not present, but she is looking forward to the talent show. Lori Pescatore discussed—great schoolwide event, sign-up form going home in folders in the next week or so.

d. **Landscaping**—Dorothy was not present—Lori P. talked about upcoming spring clean-up. 5th graders help and get paid (The money goes toward their graduation). Many other volunteers needed. There was a low turnout in the fall, so the spring clean-up will need a lot of help. Question raised about whether there should be an incentive for parents to volunteer. The date is TBD and is dependent on the weather.

→ An announcement will be sent out that it is coming up and also to mention that people can help on an ongoing basis by picking up trash etc.

e. **Volunteer Coordinator:** Emily Almas: Emails have been going out about volunteer opportunities.

f. **Kindergarten Playground:** Angela had update. Last meeting, those present talked about plans, getting Diane Miller (lead designer of Joey's park in Belmont), making it a musical playspace, etc. There was talk that the town might have something in the works, so the grant was withdrawn. Angela will resubmit in the spring (AEF is expecting this). Angela heard back from the town—no definite timelines, no guarantee that schools/Peirce will get the funds. The Peirce playground is relatively low priority from the town's perspective since it is in better shape than other town playgrounds. It is very unlikely that the town will fund the project. Angela requested smaller donation/other help from the town. She hasn't received a response to this request. Even without fundraising, there are still several other outside sources for money.

→ Proposal—1. Send out a notice to parents, 2. Set up a meeting with the proposed designer and Mark Miano (with the town) to give people a chance to be on the committee. Even though the town is not funding, Mark might still be able to help us by getting bids, etc. 3. Form subcommittee, 4. Create budget. Arlington has a community sustainability act which could possibly fund the playground. Can revise grant.

→ First step is to set the public meeting with Mark and Diane present.

g. **Technology:** Dan Gillis-- He will attend an upcoming faculty meeting to address training/questions.

Budget update—Lori P.

Craft fair did fine, haven't paid custodian yet

Waiting for check from return of silly string order from Town Day.

Need to decide if some events such as Trivia Night are still going to happen. Perhaps just make the event about trivia for the parents and not having it be a fundraising event. Last year, each class donated a basket.

Money from boxtops came in—a couple of hundred dollars

Teachers are interested in doing the silent auction again in April. The suggestions was made that it could be done online.

New business

a. Review bylaws

a. Non-budget expenditures

i. Mini grant in place, nothing in place for larger expenditures

Suggestion: Same program used for all expenditures—comes in writing

What is reserve account for? Lori P. reported that there is \$24,000 in money market account—reserve budget. Could be used for grants, etc.

--Suggestion: Have a set number of people needed to vote for a funds exceeding a certain amount.

--Suggestion: Sufficient notice given before the vote—on the agenda, agenda need to be published a certain number of days in advance.

--Suggestion: Better communication about the agenda—maybe addition of email out with agenda or flier in the folder.

Difficult to circulate agenda in advance when coming off of vacation

Need written rules for expenditures —current bylaws are vague

Need minimum amount for reserve

Need cutoff when 2/3 vote is required

PTO has never said no to teacher requests for funds

→ Angela and Chris working on proposal that they will circulate before the next meeting along with the agenda

b. **Term limits**

People have been approaching PTO with interest in positions for next year. Don't want to push people out, but also want to encourage new people to join or to have current people try out other positions. Also want to be more transparent about when elections are going to be, etc.

Interest hasn't been there in the past. This is part of the reason for starting early. Want it to be public but also don't want to intimidate people who might be interested. Suggestion to promote open positions at community events.