

Dale Street PTO Meeting

January 5, 2022

**This PTO meeting was held virtually via Zoom call.*

Welcome and Introductions: Karen Seitz (5th grade Co-President), Jessy Nejm (4th grade Co-President), Paula Pacheco (Vice President), Lindsay Rogers (Treasurer), Jill Werner (Secretary), Ali Abba, Karyn Healey, Jodi Bills, Kelly Scobbo, Jessica Griffin

*Principal Steve Grenham had a schedule conflict and was unable to attend this zoom meeting.

Treasurer Update: Lindsay Rogers

-budget is in good shape

-about \$2500 is currently showing up as income on the treasurer's report—it will go towards payment for classroom books purchased

-Kelly Scobbo asks a question- Hospitality spent \$100 for granola bars and seltzers to update snacks in the newly cleaned out teachers' room. Should this come from Dale funds or Believe funds? It was decided it should come from Dale's funds. The fabulous holiday luncheon was generously donated and there have not been any asks by hospitality for \$ from parents

Hospitality update: Kelly Scobbo

-Kelly shares that donated winter holiday luncheon was a great success.

-Hospitality will likely plan a Cutlets luncheon for Feb/March

-There have been no requests from hospitality for food, drink, or money donations up to this point. Likely will ask for support around teacher appreciation week.

-For Valentine's Day, they may do something fun like a dessert bar.

-Separate from hospitality, Paula Pacheco was able to tap volunteers for help in providing Power Up Snacks for teachers during conference time. They were much appreciated.

MCPE Update: Jessy Nejm

-The Wreath making workshop was a success.

-MCPE is hoping to hold their much-enjoyed Spelling Bee again this year. Winter dates are being discussed.

-MCPE is planning to hold their fun Trivia Night for adults at Primavera in March/April.

Vice President/Volunteer Update-Paula Pacheco

- There are about 65 people on the current volunteer list.
- The Power Up snack event for conferences filled very quickly and was loved by teachers.
- The yearbook coordinators would like to get 5th grade families to complete the initial sign up for a 5th grade yearbook—check the FB Class of 2029 page for the link. This info will be recirculated for those that missed it.
- We're still looking for a coordinator for the Spring Talent Show

Fundraising Update- Jodi Bills

- Kelly Scobbo, Nicole Drummond, and Jodi Bills are meeting to discuss some K-5 fundraising ideas
- A big fun run fundraiser is an area of interest for the spring. (in place of Winter Carnival)—wondering what type of \$ this could bring in
- The Duffle Bag fundraiser is over but there are still some duffles left for sale
- The Spirit Wear Sale is ongoing—all that money is going into Townwide account and will then be distributed to the schools.
- The team brainstormed some additional fundraising ideas for the K-5 group. MCPE is not doing the Treasured Experiences Auction this year so is that something the PTO could take over? That plus some possible auction baskets available as well. Will be discussed further

Programming Update- Ali Abba and Karyn Healey

- over \$2,500 new teacher-selected books will be going into the classroom libraries. (Park St Books was able to secure these books)
- each classroom got at least 10 new books, most were donated by families but PTO covered some too
- Each donated book included a nameplate sticker identifying the donating family
- Jim James of Park Street Books gave a generous store credit as a thanks for all the business.
- Ali and Karyn used this store credit to get some new books for Marina Sweeney and the Dale library (replacing some old books and purchasing new as well)—they were able to get 30 new books for the library
- Ali and Karyn have been working on planning an Author visit at Dale. Jim James recommended Scott SanGiacomo, the author and illustrator of Bedhead Ted. They have reached out to

Principal Grenham and the grade level leaders to gauge their interest in making this happen. Mr. Grenham fully supports the idea—they're hoping to gain approval from grade level leaders. They are going to send a note to the author to see if finding a date for the visit is possible this spring. (Wheelock is also interested in having this author/illustrator visit them)

-Paula Pacheco recommends using Kerry Cowell (Blake library media specialist who helps oversee programming across the schools) as a resource when trying to approve this type of larger programming.

-Mairi Nawroki has reached out to Ali and Karyn to ask for a grant/help with classroom gym materials. The gym is being used during lunch blocks and when the weather doesn't cooperate for outside play, Mairi needs to hold her gym classes in the classrooms. She'd like some ideas and help in creating "Gym on a Cart" or "Gym in a Bin"

-The group brainstormed a couple ideas for "Gym on a Cart"--jacks, carnival games, ping pong, yoga videos, karate videos, or high school inspired sports classes--led by HS students over zoom, challenges to complete. Will follow up with Mairi and help her get what she needs for these gym-in-the-classroom blocks

Project Believe Update-Karen Seitz

-the FB page is a great spot to go for updates

-the designers will be getting painting estimates for the room. If they are too high, plan B would be to recruit some volunteer painters and do it ourselves. There will be a possible vote for paint colors.

-Is it worth looking into larger furniture pieces (bigger tables, high tops) and ordering now to get best prices and ensure timely delivery?

-Designers will likely set up a registry for some additional items needed to complete the room.

-How should we continue to get the word out about looking for support and donations for Project Believe? Hometown Weekly article or letter to the editor?

New Business- Karen Seitz

-New subs need at Dale

-Winter Door Decorating Contest--plan is to kickoff on Tues 1/18. PTO will drop off decorating materials to all the classrooms. Classes will have 2 weeks to complete their decorating by Feb 1st. Joe Ahern will help create a voting system and winners will be announced by 2/4. There will be a 4th grade classroom winner and a 5th grade classroom winner. Prizes to be determined and provided by PTO.

-Indoor recess materials refresh- With colder temps keeping the kids inside for recess more, the PTO would like to refresh current indoor recess play materials. The team brainstormed ideas for board games, card games, arts and crafts, online printables, and hands-on puzzles and brainteasers. PTO will follow up with teachers to get their feedback about what they'd like to see in the classrooms. PTO approves a budget of \$50 per classroom to update these indoor recess materials. Work will start immediately to get these materials updated and in the hands of the kids.

-There is \$10,000 in the Dale budget that had been set aside for an investment at the new Dale school. Now that that project is on hold, what to do with the money? Karen Seitz will reach out to Principal Grenham to discuss further.

-Elementary Book Fair- Jill Werner reached out to Memorial and Wheelock PTOs to gauge their interest in having an in-person elementary book fair later this spring. It is typically a fun, social event run in coordination with Park Street Books. In-person tends to be a more successful event than when held virtually. Jim James is often generous in giving a percentage of the funds made back to the schools. Jill will check in with principals to see their comfort level with an in-person event later this spring, she will see if Jim James is booking in-person book fairs and what his schedule is like, and she will reach out to the coordinators from the past to see if they are interested in running it this year. More details to come.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 @ 9:45 AM