

Welcome to Conant School PTO



March 22, 2017 – PTO General Body Meeting Minutes

Meeting Commenced: 9:38 a.m.

Board Members Present for General Body Meeting: *Ezili Mayo-Joseph, President; Jane Archer, Vice President; Kristin Kenny, Vice President; Lin Zhang, Treasurer; Elise Calisi, Secretary.*

Teachers, Parents, Others Present for General Body Meeting: *Damien Sugrue, Principal; Rashmi Muralidhar, Archana Barry, Michelle Manchanda, Michelle Brown-Droese, Jing Zhang, Mary Tsacoyeanes, Teacher; Deanne O’Sullivan, School Committee; Loretta Crumlish, Teacher; Sailaja Gade; Ranjini Reddy.*

Welcome – *Ezili Mayo-Joseph* welcomed the group.

Approval of January 2017 Minutes - The minutes of the *January 2017* meeting were presented for review and approved.

First motion to approve minutes – *Archana Barry*

Second motion to approve minutes – *Damien Sugrue*

Open Positions: Craft Fair, Secretary, Cultural Enrichment, Kindergarten to First grade transition. Emphasis on help needed with 2017 Craft Fair in October. Largest fundraiser brings in over 10K. Other schools in AB will be happy to take the event if we cannot run it.

Last Inter-council school meeting: *Ezili Mayo-Joseph* and *Michelle Brown-Droese* gave the update: They attended 45-min. school council mtg. in Feb. Discussion was about student suicides/attempts, busing, late start @ Jr. High and H.S. Consideration for 2 schedules and more buses. Regionalization has increased transportation budget. Elementary schools may go on single schedule. Master Building Plan is approved by MSBA. There are several options. Two options keep separate schools. One option to combine schools and get rid of one school. Plan is online. Proposals to have different academically themed schools (STEM, Art, etc.) Parent participation is needed for feedback. Online surveys are forthcoming. AB towns will need to approve funding in future. School infrastructure building improvements are needed at any rate over the next year. The issue goes to town meeting because it affects all residents in AB. AB approved by MSBA at first application indicates the urgent need of repairs to schools. Shifting grades and regrouping (K-1, 2-5, 6-9, etc.) has been done in other districts. AB superintendents have researched with other offices regarding proposed changes.

Last PTO school committee meeting: Conant does not have a permit for an online auction but we can advertise online. District staff and newspaper are invited to the Art Show. Dunkin’ Donuts will donate coffee. Mr. Sugrue and teachers can explain in a blog post why assistants are necessary and why the PTO supplements their salary. Open Positions (KidStuff books, board positions) School council will also have openings and they meet monthly. Two parent openings next year. People have bought Celtics tickets. It

is a fundraiser. Lin still needs money for the year. Mr. Sugrue has money from enrichment. Mr. Sugrue has been able to redirect money because of PTO fundraising.

Variety Show: Auditions done. 6th graders will M.C. One night only (Friday 4/28).

Art Show: Ezili gave the update. June 1st Thursday evening. 1 art piece per child. Need volunteers for mounting art. 6th graders will sing at 6:45 p.m. Donations are welcome but no admission price. There will be bake sale and pottery auction. Donations from Craft Fair will be raffled at BWF.

Auction for Pottery Pieces and Raffle of Craft Fair Donations: Will be done at next BWF.

Celtics Evening: Tickets to go to game, etc. This is a pilot program fundraiser.

Ice Cream Social: Rashmi gave the update. The group wishes to give a warm thank you to Debbie DiDuca and a gift for her help. Tickets, games, pizza made about 8K. Paid custodian for services.

Edit Charter: Every 3 years we file an updated version of our PTO charter for the Mass. Attorney General. It is required to reflect current operations.

Principal's Update: Mr. Sugrue gave the update. MCAS is starting online for Grade 4. By 2019 all MCAS will be online. Buying 2-3 more Chromebook carts to meet the needs of this testing. Ordered REDCAT devices which are used to amplify teachers voices via speakers installed in classroom. MCAS is used as a tool for collecting useful data about learning and curriculum at Conant. Students are not asked to study for the MCAS.

First motion to adjourn – Michelle Brown-Droese

Second motion to adjourn – Ranjini Reddy

Meeting Adjourned: *10:40 a.m.*

Minutes Typed By: *Elise Calisi*