

# Welcome to Conant School PTO



## **May 5th, 2017 – PTO General Body Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Commenced:** 9:30 a.m.

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

**Teachers, Parents, Others Present for General Body Meeting:** *Sailaja Gade, Mamatha K., Meghana N., Grace Knight, Missy LoPorto, Daniele DaRosa, Jing Zhang, Varsha Kulkarni, Vandana Vats, Michelle Manchanda, Jennifer J. Hodgson, Veena Kamath, Stanphenie Yao, Rashmi Muralidhar, Damien Sugrue, Principal.*

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

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

First motion to approve minutes – *Ezili Mayo-Joseph*

Second motion to approve minutes – *Damien Sugrue*

**Open Positions** – Need one more position for movie night.

**Annual Fund Update** – *Ezili, Lin, and Jane* gave the update. Goal has been reached for this year; savings goes into effect. Reached 44K. Have \$47,800. PTO is purchasing color-coded tee shirts for all students next year. The shirts have Luther Bear and a flag on them. Promoting community is the goal. Vote to approve purchase of shirts for all students K-6 is approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - *Lin Zhang* gave the update. PTO has \$47,800 now. Variety show made \$2,184. Thanks to teachers and parents. More families donated this year as well as an increase in corporate matching of \$3,071. *Lin* thanks everyone for their support of her role as treasurer. D.A. participation went up almost 20% this year to near 40% of families giving. Next year the directory will be provided by PDF and save the PTO \$300 in printing costs. It will be sent by end of September. Vote to approve electronic directory is approved. Money reserved for teachers is \$1,000. Teachers are asked to apply for this money ASAP.

**Fundraising Events** – Volunteers have been good at keeping spending low. Thanks! *Michelle Brown-Droese* gave the update on the first Celtics game night. Tickets were \$20 each and PTO charged \$25. \$200 profit from sales. Kids were surprised to be called to the court for “Anthem Buddies.” Kids need to be there before the game begins to participate in the national anthem with the team players. The trophy will travel to Conant. We applied for it to come on Games Day. Photographer needed. 2-3 slots will be available for kids to go to a practice or tickets for family of 4 forthcoming. Opportunities will be posted on facebook. The kids had a great time.

**Variety Show Update** – Jenn gave the update. Thank you to Jennifer Jones-Hodgson, Cini, Mike and Sara Wilcox. It was a lot of fun and Ranjini's help will be missed. Show's intention was to be a creative opportunity for kids. Advertising was reduced this time to keep attendance numbers manageable. Suggestion to use some of the profit from show ticket sales to invest in stage equipment, lights, etc. Hoping to make this an annual event.

**Festival Of Cultures** – Rashmi gave the update. FOC was on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Admission was \$5/person. Douglas and Conant came together to show off culture. International potluck. Cost \$200 to participate; grant from cultural council.

**School Council Meeting** – Jane gave the update. Communication improving between school parents. Facebook, e-mails are primarily used. Blog – Sugrue had 46 reads in April. Newsflash 25-30% open rate. What is preventing parents from reading e-mails? Where are they going for information? What apps might be useful? This is an issue at all schools which the PTO's are brainstorming.

**PTO/PTOS** – Kristin Kenny gave the update. School committee: new elementary school building will affect taxes and home values. K update – schools have wait-list. Over by 27 children and expect 15-20 more in September. Boxborough added a section for 4 total sections; Conant – 3 sections again next year, Merriam 3, Gates 3, Douglas 2. Wait list changes daily but appx 18 waiting for full-day K placement. Meeting about single tier busing school start times. Survey gone out online—fill out options for school times. Walkers getting preferences for schools but then take the bus. Emphasis on participation at meetings from families. May 31<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m. @ RJ Grey family learning series on the emotional life of young boys. Superintendent will address classroom assistant inequities among the elementary schools at the next meeting. We need to find helpers for the Craft Fair because the other schools will take it if we cannot run it at Conant.

**Art Show** – Andrea has donations from CF vendors which will be raffled off at the Art Show. Ranjini-last cultural enrichment program coming up. **Artist Rob Surette of Hero Art**, will be giving a picture to the school. Art Show will be June 1<sup>st</sup>. Each child's piece will be on display. \$5 suggested donation. Auction of classroom pottery pieces final. 6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus will perform. Homemade bake sale. DD will donate coffee. Sell Logo Items. Kids should get dressed up. Family art activities will be set up.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Veena gave the update which is that she is not giving an update because she wants it to be a surprise!

**Principal's Update** – MCAS going well. Stay informed via facebook. Dr. Brand recently discussed goals, assistants funding, equality is based on school needs and funding is supplemented by district. Parents keep an eye on weather make sure kids are properly dressed, fed, hydrated. Please no flip flops at school for safety reasons. Drinking water quality has been tested. The pipes are fine and the faucets in some places needed replacing. Bubblers were tested and are fine for people to use.

**Other Items** – Ezili gave the updates. Movie nights may use high school student volunteers in future. The HS volunteer coordinator is Roberta. **Mamatha Kontham, Sailaja Samudrala, and Rashmi Muralidhar volunteered to be the team for the Craft Fair Volunteers.** For teacher appreciation week (May 22-26) there is a sign up online for potluck food on MWF that week. Children are encouraged to make cards for the teachers.

Meeting Adjourned: *10:30 a.m.*

Minutes Typed By: *Elise Calisi*