**Conant PTO General Assembly Meeting Notes**

Friday February 10, 2023 @ 9-9:50 AM

Conant Cafeteria

**Attendees: Allison Lahey, Joe Russo, Melissa C, Andrew J, Debby L, Catherine R, Jaime R, Meghan Spencer, Maria, Lindsey E, approx. 10 parents**

 **AGENDA**

**9:00 AM – 9:05 AM *Welcome & Introductions* Melissa Cottone, Vice President**

-Feedback on breakfast – no one came in to the library only a few kids to get munchkins, signs were great, no coffee for students, 8:30 am big crowd from bus.

**9:05 AM – 9:15 AM *Principal Update* Joe Russo, Interim Principal**

-New Principal, Dr. Tricia O’Reilly accepted position will have overlap time and come to some select spring events

-Peter Light was a finalist and now not doing Newton, committed to Acton, enjoys his team in Acton

-School going well, eager and excited about future of Conant

-Large Neurodivergent population and multilingual population-look for ways to be more inclusive

-Kindergarten info night, well over 100 people

-April MCAS and May MCAS -dates will be publicized soon

**9:15 AM – 9:30 AM Discussion: *Improving Inclusion at Events* Allison Leahy, Asst Principal &**

**Lindsay Entwistle, Maria**

-movie nights and breakfasts -quiet zone, lights

-field day- list of activities are previewed ahead of time, quiet area with calm lights -sensory room, puzzles, Legos

All school meeting-previewed ahead of time, we offer noise cancelling head phones, no clapping-silent cheer, 2 fingers- all quiet- totally silent, classroom has different norms

Ice cream truck-waiting in line 20 min window for students ahead of time -come early to get ice cream or event to see the set up or tour, chairs set up so they aren’t sitting on floor for motor impairments, movie night outside-less loud

Next Movie Night -library set up with coloring books and libraries and ask Allison, can leave and stay if they want, 30 min episodes. Intermission, how do we make it so all our students can participate in all ways

-How would PTO know who these families are? Pre-form for PTO on registration, sign up sheet, put on sign up for quiet space or line ahead of time for Conant Carnival, School would partner with the school, they can target the families they know. Movie nights look the same each time. Pictures ahead of time. Hallway is another option instead of library for quiet space. Do feedback for each event.

-Closed Caption on movies (check)

-Carly G parent offered to be in that space and has things to bring (fidgets, etc)

-food allergies, add cheerios to breakfast, nut free – gluten or donations of a place that has it

-fidgets, add to tables

**9:30 AM – 9:45 AM *Spring Event Team Lead Updates* Debby Lee, President**

* ***Book Fair*** *-Andrew Jones (March 1, 2nd and 3rd) Scholastic Books in Lobby*
* *130 to 2:30 on Wednesday after noon?*
* *5 to 7:30 pm and movie night*
* -E wallet for kids so kids can buy books and check out, some of it goes to PTO
* *Volunteers needed , set up and break down each night, can we leave the tables and cover it up? Yes? , input for people who has seen it before 2017. There is an online component and will publicize better-facebook, teachers pick up a pile of book and parents can buy for teachers, teachers can do a wish list and staff could walk them through during the day.*
* *-Megan can poll teachers to see if they will walk though*
* *-Principal will work with school counselor to identify for kids who can have a $10 certificate for one book need a free one*
* *Wish list for teachers and wish list for librarian -parents can donate as gifting books*
* -all teachers , special ed teachers, etc.
* Baskets for kids -Debby- certificate with the persons name- kid can write their name and put in a pile for teachers
* -Teachers pick book and put it in a basket for teachers
* ***Movie Nights-K to 3*** *Friday March 3rd parents need to stay for this one- movie selection- student council will vote on movie, add to form about inclusion and ESL, translate digital flyers, google translate, volunteers and popcorn machine -next week test it, buy pre-made popcorn, extra air heads, restock*
* ***Conant Carnival-table until next time***
* ***Scoops and Stories***
* ***6th Grade Dance-****games like cornhole and jenga look to get*
* ***Weco Month***

9:45 AM – 9:55 AM *Votes/Any other Business* Jaime Roberts, Secretary

* *DJ/Photobooth for 6th Grade Dance-approved and Joe Russo will sign it with me*
* *Nature Classroom-no update*
* *Yearbooks -Joe will check in with teachers, need volunteers*

***Festival of Cultures –*** *booths, 3 part event, food, and then dancing and music- need a planner-fall, do this in Fall of next year, late September, early October*

*End at 9:50 am*

*Notes taken by Jaime Roberts*