Notes: 1/11/23 PTO Meeting Library Notes

**Welcome and Intro of Board Members and Teacher Reps-Attendee’s include:** Jaime, Debby, Catherine, and Melissa, Megan S, 16 parents

Time Started: 7:05 pm

**-TEAM LEAD UPDATES:**

Focus tonight to talk about events have this year

-purchase on new popcorn machine $800 , 400 servings in an hour, vote on that and a cart we will vote tonight on that and supplies, we will use it at Conant Carnival , we voted and approved it and passed it

-Polar Pride Gear vote- we have some things on delayed but want to order hooded sweatshirts, kids and adults on PTO.org website and order vinyl stickers on laptop and car decals and water bottles, and we will have them at events and on our website

-Fleece Jackets for staff and get embroidery on that, and ask for budget approval. Got it for Teacher Appreciation Week. Can we order them for them? Something to think about for sizes?

**EVENT FEEDBACK DISCUSSION:**

Breakfast for Families Feedback: not enough coffee or munchkins-Donation from Dunkin Donuts and family and can brew our own if needed -Back up Plan, tried to keep it simple, do we buy juice

Craft Fair- going around volunteer t-shirts or tag to distinguish b

Movie Night- wait for popcorn, and split it up, and put the food inside, and movies be appropriate for kids, broader range or selection for older kids/younger kids, needed more space for sleeping bags, popcorn machine conked out, prepacked kernels prepared . How much does rental popcorn cost? $200 to $300 and didn’t have to transport it.

**-Upcoming Events** -on facebook and on the PTO Calendar on the Website: Tentative but mostly all booked, Lead Names are on the agenda and Board member liaison for events.

-Jaime needs to book more of the PTO meetings and Craft Fair, etc. on Community Ed Websites:

-Breakfast with Families 2/10 and 4/28 Friday mornings and we will have PTO meeting right after that 9 am, special guest speaker at each one, school committee member come

-Scholastic Book Fair- March 1 to 3/3 Read Across America Week and pair the book fair the last night of the K to 3 Movie Night in the lobby, it will be in the evening, can’t be during the day, can’t do fundraising during the school day, can’t go to the book fair. Going back to Scholastic, not Silver Unicorn this year due to expense. Book selection is wonderful, high quality. Price point Scholastic is much better. Most of them are hard copy and Scholastic is $1.00 to $5.00. Where Silver Unicorn is $10.00 and hard copy. Scholastic -can we not have them send the extra posters and not erasers, etc.. just books. Scholastic during conference time, in fall for holidays maybe 2 year going forward.

-We plan to do June 8th at silver unicorn, maybe pair that with Weco. And west side creamery , scoops and stories night in West Acton. Teacher book list for Teachers.

-Movie Nights, 3/3 to K to 3, and March 31 for 4 to 6 pm

-Sixth Grade Dance- Shilpi- parents of 6th grade not to chaperone, 5/12, Olga contact, DJ, popcorn, soda, photobooth ,theme, tickets to keep, T-shirts for 6th grade class, 2023, names on the back of the shirt, sizes and match as a special gift and Yearbook. Vote on playlist , ring light, props, background

Conant Carnival- Ice cream truck, carnival of games, organize by class, more food trucks and more ice cream, do teachers want to do it again, Dunk Tank

-Scoops and Stories Night- we need more people to run it.

-Craft Fair-10/22 pick date and the community ed and run it by Joe Russo.. Pats game, Young Entrepreneurs Fair bumped up against us.

- We think it will happen again and we have parents sign it. It allows us to raise money for the school without the school doing it from within. 70 to 90 vendors, pay a fee, all fundraising comes from. 44th year, Very unique to Conant! Community Event , we don’t have to rely on parents to pay for committee events. Having a core group of 5 or 6 people, monthly meetings on zoom, checklist, small tasks and if it is spread across it is 10 min a months and emailing Vendors and putting it into a spreadsheet, need a lot of people the week of the event, we need to spread out knowledge and this is the vendors livelihood so we need to make a great event, treated great. Vendors are all friends and they travel together and talk about events are particular and peculiar, they have given us great feedback. Get pumpkin muffins from Dunks and Donuts , had late vendors this year in the late fall is good.

-Spelling Bee for Conant-Gates is doing it this year and we would do it next year in October. Has to register for it and regional and then national, Nancy Auger was going to help with it. Meet with Gates to hear about how it went, PTO, teachers, after school, in school or club. Anyone that they would want to be involved in.

Conant Celebrates-Festival of Cultures- used to do it with Douglas, someone wanted to do it. Started by a Japanese teacher at Douglas- families have booths in gym representation of their culture-game, or food or pictures, performances in Café. Big to coordinate, people do their own booth, but coordinating across parents, we can add it in or thoughts or feedback ? Food is the major driver , full dance troupes, Grant from DEI Diversity person, contact, Jan. Cultural committee at Douglas, PTO, different holidays-advise to become more aware and educated. A teacher is willing to help or offer suggestions through Cultural Responsive Team. International Day in Belmont, India-Henna tattoos, bring food and dancing , Russian Booth, if a few people, they did it together for countries. Sports/Themes, passport-get a stamp, Poster from other countries. Maybe outside? Food in the lobby and booths in gym. Theme each year like history around food or festivals. One entry per country and people go together.

Other Events: Fall -Back to School Picnic, Social Event, Pumpkins:

Ice Cream Social? Carnival replaced the ice cream social, teachers were running games . Big Burden on Teachers and also slavery references to Cake Walk. Think about fun ice cream social in school. Hot in the school and crowded, do we want it again? Meet teachers and parents and other kids in class. Fall event and open and social. Pottery and silent auctions- room parents would come to school day, unpainted party, they would paint the pottery-thumb print (cookie jar and platter) write Conant School, names and year, characters, etc.. and use the pieces and then we would make 2 for each class and get auctioned off at parents bid on them. Other was art night which we aren’t doing this year. 6th grade cloth or photo or character and draw it on a piece of cloth to give as a memory. Burdensome with cost and pottery not all sold so think about ideas

Mrs. M got back from maternity leave so not arts night coming back with Dr. Ferrari next year

Henna – at the Carnival Shilpi Goyal Can we get high school kids or volunteer Indian Organization , sign off on hours, Ink or paste? Supplies. Not expensive- donations, 15 stations.

-Game Night in the fall- Sara Wilcox looked into that teachers should not run these events, should be parents

Betty Ann would help next year with Scholastic

Scholastic -during day books displayed and kids can go down and parent volunteer with younger kids to make wish list (one day for all kids ) or 2 days ? Birthday books not having? Where is the inventory? And can we give $ to those so everyone’s gets a book some parents don’t have funds- ELL families and free and reduced lunch list.

End Meeting Time: 8:30 pm

Notes taken by Jaime Roberts