



January 12, 2018 – PTO General Body Meeting Minutes

Meeting Commenced: 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present for General Body Meeting: Jane Archer, President; Lin Zhang, Treasurer; Sandy Ghose, Treasurer; Kristin Kenny, Secretary.

Teachers, Parents, Guests Present for General Body Meeting: Lakshmi Thiagarajan, Randi Taylor, Mary Tsacoyeanes. Loretta Crumlish, Meaghan Rajkumar, Aimee McCready, Lyndsay Robertson, Elise Calisi, Stella Murillo, Damjan Kenk, Sara Wilcox, Ezili Mayo-Joseph, Michelle Manchanda, Veena Kamath, Debbie Dawson, Heather Tortola, Carl Tortola, Debby Lee, Preetham Mangalore, Jaivani Mangalore, Erin Blankenship, Missy LoPorto, Rashmi Muralidhar, Jing Zhang.

Welcome – Jane Archer welcomed the group.

Approval of September 22, 2017 minutes - The minutes of the *September 22, 2017* meeting were presented for review and approved without edits.

First motion to approve minutes – Elise Calisi

Second motion to approve minutes – Debbie Dawson

Introduction to Board – Jane Archer gave the update. New board members introduced to the group.

Principal's Update – Damian Sugrue gave the update. The district has been developing next year's budget. The Acton Leadership Group meets weekly. January 27th will be budget Saturday and it is when the budgets are presented to the School Committee. The public is welcome. The All School Meetings have been extra special with the t-shirts provided by the PTO. Rainbow effect in the room. Conant has put in budget requests to make some updates. Office measured for carpet to make it more accessible. The building site project is moving forward.

Treasurer's Report– Lin Zhang gave the update. The annual giving/direct appeal is at \$13,535 as compared to \$12,635 at this time in 2017. Our matching funds are better than last year at \$2,025. Jane Archer made everyone aware that teachers donate also. Commented that participation was pretty good and again went over what the Polar Pass included.

Movie Nights Jane Archer gave the update. There has been a discussion to improve movie nights. Some think there are limited choices with a G rating, wondering if we can move to PG-13. Mr. Sugrue thinks it's ok-ultimately the parents' decision to send kids or not. Asked how to get input from community as attendance has dropped. Facebook poll?, Use Room parents?, Combined movie nights?, Kids vote? Themes for movie night?

Smart phone policy -Brought up by Jane Archer. Mr. Sugrue explained that cell phones should be off and in backpacks during the day. No watches that can take photos are allowed. Elementary schools have no

set policy but we will follow Jr. High and High School policy. There was an incident of video taken at movie night. Keep your eyes on the kids. Jane also brought up the Wait Until 8th Pledge. Basically parents can sign a pledge stating their child will not have a smart phone until 8th grade. Promote play and getting kids outside. Mr. Sugrue stated the issue is less about the device than it is about social media. His clarification would be no social media or parents closely monitoring.

Open Positions - PTO Vice President (who will be President next year), Box Tops Co-Volunteer, and Craft Fair chairperson for next year.

Square1Art – Michelle Manchanda gave the update. Ms. Hayes tried this program in past year. PTO is trying it out this year. School receives up to 38% profit from sales of art products. December 15th there will be one art piece per student that can be ordered online. Quality and price is reported to be good. Not sure if parents can upload other artwork from home. A school in another town raised \$13-14K.

Other Business – Year book--\$500 deposit is required. 6th grade repays the \$500 deposit. Cost per book is \$22.95 and there's a discount for early ordering. Yearbook is present for approval and approved by majority vote. Sargent Camp - \$325 per student. Costs have gone up because of transportation (\$100 bus increase since last year). Fundraisers in 5th grade are suggested in preparation for 6th grade year which has a lot of expenses. Group introductions were made by all in attendance.

Kindness Project- Mr. Sugrue updated everyone regarding this initiative. This is an initiative by the teachers. A theme for the months. November is belonging, December is Curiosity, January is kindness. Teacher report that it seems to be making a difference. Per Mrs. Tsacoyeanes “ We want to empower children to notice kindness in their own life but to also notice it in what they read”.

AB District Update- Marie Altieri, Amy Krishnamurthy and Diane Baum joined to update us on AB District news. It was just reiterating information that can currently be found on district websites. Covered the Building project, Change in Assistant funding, Superintendent search.

First motion to adjourn – *unrecorded*

Second motion to adjourn – *unrecorded*

Meeting Adjourned: *9:40 a.m.*

Minutes Typed By: *Kristin Kenny*