

Hillside Elementary School

Minutes

Date: Friday 9/6/19

Time: 9:45am

HES Teacher's Lounge

Meeting called by	Kathleen Thomas
Type of meeting	PTO Board Meeting
Facilitator	Kathleen Thomas
Meeting Minutes by	Colleen Decker
Attendees	Colleen Decker, Kathleen Thomas, Jami Barnett, Yvette Hope Kaplan, Tracy Johnson, Emily Phelan, Jacqui Cosgrove, Jacy Rider, Cheryl Lowery, Kate Miller, Stephanie Oosterlynck, Samantha Butler, Tom Colman, Shefali Macedo, Molly Bogan, Laura Dimery, Alison Smith, Jothi Palanisamy, Michele Staves

Agenda Topics

Call to Order/Welcome

Discussion	June 2019 minutes were approved and sent into record.
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Principal's Report

Mrs. Michele Staves

Discussion	Mrs. Staves gave her report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC is up and running in most of the school – there are a few rooms yet to be completed (large group room). Curriculum night for K and 1st were a success, Open house went well. Thanks to the PTO for their gifts – new appliances in the lounge. Another “thank you” to all of the parents for their continued support of all things “new”. Please don’t hesitate to reach out and keep communication open.

President's Report

Kathleen Thomas

Discussion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New website is almost live. Goal is for it to launch at the end of September. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features: embedded signup feature for volunteering, registration forms, maintenance from Kym of Webscapers. Classroom flags: We are looking for a parent volunteer to take on creating and making the flags that hang outside each classroom. Mrs. Pechin has done a fabulous job with this and is seeking someone to fill her shoes. School gift: The PTO agreed at the June meeting to purchase gym mats as well as mulch on the playground (this is still in the works). In addition, a few weeks ago, the board approved gifting a new microwave and toaster over for the teacher/staff lounge. Pride Day: October 18, 2019. Pride was further explained by Mrs. Staves – it is a day to recognize differences. There are activities at each grade level that encourage inclusivity and acceptance. Update on buddy program: This new program at Hillside so far has gathered 43 host family volunteers and 21 new families.

Discussion

Water Ice Social:

- 9/9/19- Need parent volunteers, facility locked down and water ice has been ordered

Pizza Bingo:

- 10/11/19- facility confirmed and presentation today from committee

Sweetheart Dance:

- 1/31/20- DJ contract with Kathleen for signature and facilities request submitted. Once signed will request deposit for DJ.

Sunshine Fund – Tracy discussed the Sunshine Clubs’ mission: to cheer up someone who needs a little sunshine or to congratulate a milestone. There are now two different cards with our new logo – one is a somber giraffe and one is more joyful. Please reach out to anyone in the PTO if you know of someone who needs a little sunshine.

Open Positions:

- Fall Coffees- Removing from social events. Poor attendance
- Talent Show: need at least 2 co-chairs
- Staff Lunch: need one chair

2019/2020 Social Calendar:

- Water Ice Social: **9/9/19**
- Walk to School Day: **10/2/19**
- Pizza Bingo: **10/11/19**
- Talent Show: **11/8/19** (Usually the 2nd Friday in November- no chairs however)
- Sweetheart Dance or Gals and Pals: **1/31/20** with **snow** date of **2/7/20**
- Boys Activity Night: **2/21/20** with a snow date of **2/28/20** (just a placeholder until survey is completed)
- Staff Breakfast: **(Pending)** Need school calendar more completed to pick busy time of year, February
- Skating Party: **2/28/20**
- Staff Lunch: Moving date- last day of school
- June Playground play date: **(Pending)** hold off until end of March to select a date to clear and possible snow issues that would affect the last day of school.
- 4th Grade Party- **TBD**

Completed:

- New Family Tours and New Family Playground Play Date: **8/20/19** Tours are 9:00-10:30 and the play date is from 9:30 to 11:00.
- Open House: **9/5/19**

Pizza Bingo – changes discussed.

- Jacqui Cosgrove proposed possible changes to this event for the upcoming school year. Because we are constrained by capacity and have had to turn families away, she is proposing that we hold the event at T/E middle.
- Also proposed is a “glow-in-the dark” theme. Safety was discussed with the group, as well as lighting changes being a trigger for certain children. Samantha proposed there be an area that is “draped-off” for the dark/glow-in-the-dark fun.
- Another proposal was the addition of a DJ for down time
- Expanding snack option
- This is a self-sustaining event, so there is no budget for it. Jacqui proposed the possibility of having the pizza vendor pay for advertising, which allows for parents to know ahead of time where the pizza is coming from (allergies).

Discussion	
<p>We have an exciting calendar of CA events this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 14: Cello Fury's performance for American Education Week. • Our only other CA performance before the Winter Break is the 1st grade performance--the Franklin Institute's Weather Show, which is back by popular demand again this year. <p>In the spring, we will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother Goose back for Kindergarten • Chinese New Year for 2nd grade • BeeMan for 3rd grade • and an expanded performance for 4th grade, which will feature Carol Spacht (who has traditionally played Betsy Ross for us) as Martha Washington and another performer as General Washington. This performance was piloted at Devon last year to rave reviews. • Also in spring, we will have the Academy of Natural Sciences with us over two days to present a new program called "Bad Reputations," which will include some larger animals and allow the kids to examine whether these creatures "deserve" their bad reputations. The Academy of Natural Sciences show was a hit, especially with the teachers, last year, and they have assured us that there won't be any repeat animals. So this show should feel fun and fresh for everyone! <p>We are still in the process of planning/determining whether we can host a third all school assembly for the spring. I will provide an update at the next meeting.</p>	

Treasurer

Emily Phelan & Steve Rayme

Discussion	
<p>The board voted and elected Jacqui Cosgrove into the treasurer role for the 2020/2021 school year. She will shadow Steve this year to learn the role. Welcome Jacqui and thank you!</p>	

Vice President of Fundraising

Laura Dimery, Krishna Patel

Discussion								
<p>Directory ads are coming in- deadline to be extended for additional sponsors. As of now, the following sponsors have requested to place ads:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 200px;"> <tr><td>FLITE</td></tr> <tr><td>Berwyn Squash</td></tr> <tr><td>Center on Central</td></tr> <tr><td>State Farm Insurance</td></tr> <tr><td>Devon Orthodontics</td></tr> <tr><td>Meridee Winters School of Music</td></tr> <tr><td>Gustche orthodontics</td></tr> </table> <p>Fun Run- Summer meeting went well- recorded and sent to Mrs. Staves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same Boosterthon Company as last year. Some changes discussed include having in-class video presentation rather than pep rallies. This gives the teachers more flexibility so children don't miss class time. • This year there will be a push to have all "rewards" in line with Hillside's bucket-filling mission. • Feedback from last year: it was very inclusive, would be better outside (it is weather dependent) • T-shirt design (giraffe logo) has been approved by Mrs. Staves. • Ads from sponsors will be sent by 9/11 to be added to T-shirt. 		FLITE	Berwyn Squash	Center on Central	State Farm Insurance	Devon Orthodontics	Meridee Winters School of Music	Gustche orthodontics
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- Laura looking into having a “package deal” where sponsors can have a spot on the T-shirt and the directory.
- Family sponsorship will be advertised by Laura at Open House
- Tracy suggested there be a blast sent out to push for sponsors.
- Current T-shirt sponsors:

State Farm Insurance

Devon Orthodontics

- 10/16 – FUN RUN kick-off
- 10/25 – the actual FUN RUN takes place

Vice President of Membership & Services

Kate Miller & Tracy Fauls

Discussion

Clubs

- Art club with Mrs. Braun
- Lingo Kids (Monday mornings)
- Young Rembrandts (Thursday afternoons)
- Bricks 4 Kidz (Monday afternoons)
- Still working on chess club and robotics vendors

Open Positions:

- School store coordinator: looking for 1-2 4th grade parents to fill the role this year.
- Health screenings Coordinator (shadow for this year)
- Art room volunteer coordinator (shadow for this year)

Jacy Rider volunteered to help schedule parent and fourth-grade volunteers for the school store. Thank you!

New Business

Discussion

All outside organizations were reviewed and discussed.

FLITE presented by Tom and Shefali

- Mission Statement: FLITE funds programs to help ensure that all students in the T/E schools, especially those who face barriers to their educational success, have the academic tools, opportunities and support they need to succeed in school.
- Tom Colman founded FLITE 13 years ago. It currently has 28 board members and 38 members of the advisory board.
- Approximately \$350K is spent a year on children in our community from pre-K through high school. FLITE assistance covers anything from musical instruments to calculators to college counseling.
- Funds are raised through the community by local businesses and foundations.
- They assign a liaison from FLITE to each school in the district who attends the board meetings and assist in communication. Please reach out if you’re interested in being a FLITE liaison.
- All children (with the exception of pre-school admission) remain anonymous. They are identified by teachers, counselors, etc.

ARCH (Area Residents Caring & Helping)

- Mission Statement: We are a coalition of parents, educators, and community members committed to promoting the well-being of youth in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. We serve as a resource to families as they help their children form a positive self-image, make healthy choices, and reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD).
- The first ARCH meeting will be on 9/11 at 11:00 in the T/E Admin Offices.

- Hillside liaison, Laura Mills

BUILD (Better Understanding of Individuals with Learning Differences)

- B.U.I.L.D. is a group of parents and professionals of the T/E School District, who have formed a support group for parents of children with learning differences.
- Meetings are held during the school year providing useful information and creating an opportunity for discussions on various topics. All meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the T/E School District Administration Offices.
- Hillside liaison, Cheryl Lowery

Diversity Committee:

- The Diversity (formerly MultiCultural) Committee includes parents, teachers, administrators, students, School Board, and community members dedicated to the fulfillment of District policies designed to make our school community a place of increasing respect and support for all. The committee is especially interested in new parent support services; a rich, equitable, and inclusive curriculum for students; and the maintenance of an appropriately diverse professional staff.
- The first meeting will be October 16, 2019 @ 7:00pm in the T/E Admin Offices.
- Hillside liaison, Tara Ryan

InterSchool Council (ISC)

- InterSchool Council serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among parent/teacher organizations in the District. The goals are to continue to improve education for children and provide a forum for discussion and possible resolution of areas of concern. Each school has a representative from its parent group.
- First meeting will be on 9/18/19 at 7:00pm in the T/E Admin Offices
- Hillside liaisons, Tracy Johnson and Emily Phelan

T&E Care

- The mission of T&E Care is to maintain a network of people providing financial and other material assistance to persons in need in and around the Tredyffrin and Easttown township area. This foundation differs from FLITE in that it focuses on what the family needs at home rather than in school.
- Hillside liaisons, Kirsten Macfarland and Christina Arnault

Adjournment

Discussion	The meeting was adjourned at 11:00. Next meeting: Tuesday October 1 st at 6:30pm in the HES teacher's lounge.
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