

PTO Meeting Notes
9-26-19

In Attendance: Jenny, Aline, Jessie, Brad, Olivia, Lisa, Liz

Elections: Bylaws have been tightened and refined, with election procedure and positions clarified. Clarifies who has the right to vote in the elections, who has the right to vote in PTO business.

Asked for nominations—no nominations.

Jenny voted for President for one more year.

Aline voted for Secretary for one more year.

PTO Executive Officers: Jenny (President), Lisa (School Principal), Aline (Secretary), Giselle (Teacher rep), Jessie (School Committee rep)

PTO Board of Directors (make day-to-day decisions): Jenny and Aline

Lisa volunteered to serve as a Board member, Giselle could also possibly serve instead because she will be here next year.

Vote for bylaws postponed until next meeting, until Executive Board has a chance to review revised bylaws.

School Committee Update (Jessie): Mike talked about the issue of conduct on the school property—harassment and protected categories. This will be on the agenda for the next SC meeting. Research on code of conduct—conduct of the community (beyond school/students). If people are on the school grounds, need to conduct themselves respectfully. Voted on Superintendent's goals: process to include families and school committee and selecting Pelham principal; bias training, gender diversity, SGEE curriculum; develop comprehensive approach to develop positive student behavior and manage challenging behaviors; complete a study exploring possibility of 6th grade moving to middle school (ARPS wide, except Leverett and Shutesbury). Sarahbess Kenney voted in over summer on Pelham School Committee for one year.

Treasurer's Report: \$1904.50 earned; 8 party sized pizzas purchased for curriculum night, 7.5 pizzas eaten, juice and water provided (70 kids attended child care—expense will be on next treasurer's report; Ashley Z did childcare free of charge, staff paid \$100 altogether); \$967.21 in expenses. Trunk or Treat and shirt order expenses will be upcoming. Direct Appeal and PAWS Sponsorships upcoming (Lichtenberg, Stark Foundation, and Cowl's Lumber). Original Works fundraiser will also be coming. Grant came in from Stark Foundation (\$1250).

Should we send out a separate correspondence to promote use of Amazon Smile by Pelham families? Yes, Brad will design a half sheet to send home to families, and will also be sent by email.

Current balance is \$13,997.52

Teacher's Report (Giselle): Giselle couldn't be here—hoping to start engineering club in October. Kelly Carlisle started a knitting club for 6th grade at lunch time. Teachers have started submitting receipts. As far as Giselle knows, staff didn't notice that Scholastic Book fair didn't happen. Sara LaPlante did request some books for her room. Giselle will follow up with teachers about wish lists for books. Lisa has a wishlist for books—pulling together a list of titles for resource in the school (classrooms) to highlight PAWS. Have these available to teachers, sharing out with kids. Lamar's intern is working with Rosalba to put this list together. Will cross reference to make sure these books are not already in classrooms or in the library.

Communications: Ordered 29 new shirts, handed out today to all of the new students at the school, including the preschool. Parents can order from online store moving forward.

Jenny has updated the school choice openings on the PTO blog.

Mr. Lawrie—two ball chairs have popped—asked if they can be replaced from additional PTO funding. Chairs are \$50, can replace ball at \$30. PTO will fund this.

Communal snacks in Kindergarten—making this a little more green, funding placemats or napkins. They could make their own and laminate them.

Giselle: Would like real silverware in the classroom, students can wash these. Included in welcome letter to families to seek donations.

Kelly Carlisle: 6th grade knitting club—will submit budget for costs (yarn and needles)

Giselle will look through what she has for the science club.

Rosalba—fine with canceling Scholastic book fair. Used to get a \$2500 budget from the school that she no longer gets, slashed a long time ago. Recommended looking into Osbourne books for a future fair, has a contact. Wish list is complicated because she adds books, but public library gets a nice discount on books, so a money donation would go further for purchasing books. They have also gotten gifts from the Friends of Pelham library in the past, recently got a large gift. Appreciates getting some support from PTO this year. Could use Original Works funds to go to the library. Rosalba is the only person who buys children's books for the library. Earmark a certain percentage of Original Works to art program at the school, and a portion can

go to the library (or the PTO can make up the difference). PTO used to give \$400 to book scholarships.

Events/Activities Update:

- Curriculum Night: Scholastic Book Fair Cancelled—Wednesday, September 25th. Successful! PTO table was out.
- Trunk or Treat: 10/19, because 10/26 is homecoming weekend at UMass. Liz and Kristin co-coordinators. Liz: UMass students on board to volunteer, list for parents to help out is empty. Need to send out this list school-wide through an email blast. Lisa will send this out, add Pelham PTO tree to the email. Police and fire department already contacted. Trunk or Treat is a school, not town, event. Difficulty getting parent volunteers. Major volunteer spots are set-up and clean-up, help with parking, food table. Ask Gary/police to help with parking. Could scale it back—trunks and haunted house only. Games and inside part not needed. Can bring smoke machine and music (Fraziers). Pizza and cider in the cafeteria.
- Communications protocol about events, coordination, need to be followed. If you have an opinion or have something to say or want to be involved in organizing/planning, you need to come to the PTO meeting or send to the PTO email (at large). Create a code of conduct in the mission. We're in a community that is focused on PAWS (i.e., respect, valuing opinions of others)—should be emulated by all community members.

PTO Fundraising:

- PTO Welcome Letter went home with passive fundraising list
- PAWS Sponsorships (received Lichtenberg; Stark Foundation)
- Direct Appeal: Mid-September (home in folders on Monday and also through email)
- Pelham Goodies online store: Mid-October - Soundscape (to be teased at curriculum night)
- Original Works: November

Curriculum/Program Update:

- SGEE Curriculum: Revised over the summer, 10 shorter lessons, bi-monthly SGEE Club meetings for adults - starting K-2 in later fall
- Pelham Paw Prints: Started up again, first meeting with students last week. Tom, Brad, Aline, and Joanna are coordinators. PTO will get reporter notebooks.

Principal's Comments: Planning on doing things for Latino Heritage month. PTO could support a storyteller assembly for the month (~\$500). Giselle is contacting a local bomba group.

Pelham Cultural Council grant is closing October 15th. Could try for covering cultural assembly. Could write two separate grants—Latino Heritage Assembly and Black History Assembly.

Other Comments:

Emily Marriott: Wondering if PTO would be willing to purchase reusable whiteboard markers for teachers at Pelham? Brad will purchase a set, see if they work out. If they seem fine, will ask teachers if they'd be willing to use, and can talk about if willing to help purchase. They come in assorted colors. \$14 or so for a box of 6. You add ink in drops and they last a while. Nibs are also replaceable.