

## H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2018

9:07 a.m. Call to Order

This morning's meeting was kicked off with a very special video presentation from Mrs. Pearce and the H.W. Mountz students! "Who will win the Superbowl" was produced by Grade 8 students and included interviews from students and staff in all grades. Grade 8 students have been enjoying working with the new equipment provided by the PTA. Each day, students produce the morning news, everything from writing the script, reading teleprompters, using a tri-caster and telecasting live for the entire school to view. Please join us at the March PTA meeting Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> to see more amazing work our students are producing!

### Recording Secretary's Report

Noelle Henry reported that the January 8, 2018 minutes have been submitted and reviewed. A **MOTION** was made to approve the minutes, motion seconded and **APPROVED**.

### Corresponding Secretary's Report

Suzanne Newman reported the following notes of thanks:

- From Ocean of Love and their families, would like to thank Mountz families and Staff for your kindness and Christmas gifts donated from the Giving Tree.
- From Mrs. Callahan, would like to thank the PTA for the "Big Joe" chairs for the classroom. The children love them!
- From the S.L.E.A (your Mountz teachers), would like to thank the PTA for the staff appreciation cookies.
- From Mrs. Cory, would like to thank the PTA for the flowers and gift card.

### Treasurer's Report

Diane Moran reported that the Checking account balance is \$140,997.73 and the Savings account balance is \$4,498.81 as of 2/7/18.

The 2017-2018 PTA Budget Analysis was distributed and explained in detail, how we budget and where the money is spent. Here are just a few of the uses of funds;

- Mini grants
- Assemblies
- Enrichment programs
- Scholarships
- Field day
- STEM maker stations
- 1 year of reserves

In the past, the PTA has helped fund the Virtual Lab, AV Equipment and new playground equipment.

There is a surplus of funds available, which the PTA had asked Dr. Boccuti and Mrs. Callahan for recommendations. The PTA and the Board of Education have approved a much needed library renovation. A committee has begun the process to get ideas for the renovation, looking at other schools recently renovated and requesting request for proposal's to get things moving! We expect this renovation will provide a big visual/functional impact to our library!

A parent attending the meeting asked if SLED will be involved in funding this renovation. Eileen Lin explained that SLED is in the process of re-starting up and may need a few months to get their financial books up to date. John Marzullo will be the PTA liaison to SLED.

A new line item has been added to the PTA budget – Curriculum Enhancements. This will include requests from teachers for items such as books, puzzles, supplies, etc. The PTA has approved 6 requests for Curriculum Enhancements including Just Right Reader Books for Pre-K, Spanish classroom resources, light pads for the Art room and STEM books.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Mini Grants (Katie Flaherty)**

15 Mini Grant submissions have been made and approved! Mini grants are submitted by the teachers in October and February for the current year. Here are a few examples of the great requests:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Metropolitan Museum of Art for the Greece and Rome Exhibit.
- Author Visit to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Live animal visit to PreK – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- Forensics sketch artist program for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- TV studio supplies.
- Fleetweek trip for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year, students boarded a working ship!

### **Kitchen Tour (Nicole Behler)**

- Kitchen Tour will be held on October 20, 2018
- We have leads on 4 - 5 houses. Please talk to friends about putting houses on the tour, we would like to have 8 houses.
- The trolley has been booked and an email has been sent to the Train Station.
- We need help organizing the binders so that each committee has details of what needs to be done. If anyone can help with organization, and scanning, please contact Nicole Behler.

### **Book Fair (Mrs. Krebs)**

- The Book Fair will take place February 27<sup>th</sup> till March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- This year's theme will be "Paws for Reading". Officer Smith may stop by with his dog!
- Family Night will be Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00-8:00.
- Please contact Jessica Ressa to volunteer!

**Enrichment (Oyuna Marcello)**

- Spring enrichment has begun. 35 students are enrolled!
  - Monday – Guitar (6 weeks) and Art (5 weeks)
  - Wednesday – Chess (8 weeks) and Give Club (6 weeks)
  - Thursday – Mad Science (8 weeks)
- Give Club is new this year. Mountz graduate Caroline Kraus is heading up this program to support members of the community with service projects such as making cards for seniors and assembling comfort kits. 14 students are enrolled!
- There is still time to register, please sign up via Eventbrite.com

**Blood Drive (Colleen Panzini)**

- Blood Drive is set for Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-1:00
- Colleen will contact the Coast Star with information as well as get flyers for the school website, Facebook page, etc. Will also solicit people the day before as well as the day itself while recreation basketball is happening at the school.
- For details and to volunteer, please contact Colleen Panzini at panzinic@aol.com
- Please come out and donate blood!

**Mother Son Dance (Colleen Panzini)**

- Please save the date, Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 7:00 Spring Lake Golf Club.
- Theme TBD.
- A parent requested to have the same photographer as last year.

**Someone Special Dance (Diane Moran)**

- Please save the date, Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 7:00 Spring Lake Golf Club.
- Theme TBD.
- A parent requested to have the same photographer from last year's Mother Son Dance.

**Teacher Liaison Update (Mrs. Callahan)**

- On behalf of all the teachers and staff, Mrs. Callahan thanked everyone for all the support and proving such great opportunities through Mini Grants!
- Mrs. Callahan is working with Mr. DeStefano and Mr. Livingood about organizing a high school information session for rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents. This will take place in May or June and if available, open house dates and testing dates will be advised. Most high schools prefer prospective students to attend open houses.
- A request was made at the January PTA meeting to have more photos of students streaming on the Mountz website. Mrs. Pearce now has administrative rights to add photos.

**Dr. Boccuti's Report**

- Strategic plan update – Spanish is progressing as expected and meeting expectations. A second world language may be offered, a survey will be sent out in the next few weeks.

- The Mountz App still is not functioning. The PTA has requested that the App link users directly to the Mountz website, as well as a few more features. Dr. Boccuti will speak with Mr. Soto to get this working.

**Announcements**

- The next PTA Meeting will be Monday, March 5th at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Submitted by: Noelle Henry, Recording Secretary