

## H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mrs. Pearce and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students invited all attending the PTA meeting to the computer lab to watch the production of the daily morning news. Students have been enjoying working with the new sound board provided by the PTA through mini grants. Each day, students produce the morning news - everything from writing the script, reading teleprompters, incorporating a photo montage, using a tri-caster and telecasting live for the entire school to view. Mrs. Pearce explained that she, Mrs. Brendle and Mr. Soto sometimes work with a technician from VCA on technical issues that arrive, but most of the time the students take the initiative to learn how to work the equipment, including the "green screen", another PTA funded mini grant from a previous year. There were 5 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in attendance and each had the opportunity to introduce themselves. Currently, the studio is only for 8<sup>th</sup> grade use, although students in other grades now will have some access to start preparing themselves for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Karaoke Friday and Just Dance have also been brought in for students in all grades to enjoy. Mrs. Pearce and Dr. Boccuti thanked the PTA for helping to provide our students with state of the art technology.

9:35 a.m. Call to Order

### Recording Secretary's Report

Noelle Henry reported that the February 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 Amy Lyons, would like to thank Mountz PTA for your kindness and flowers.
- From Ms. Foligno, would like to thank the PTA for the Art Room Mini Grant.
- From Dominick Puccio, would like to thank the PTA for the gift card for Custodian Appreciation Day.

### Treasurer's Report

Diane Moran reported that the Checking account balance is \$137,354.21 and the Savings account balance is \$4,498.84 as of 2/7/18.

Diane Moran explained how the PTA budgets money and where the money is spent. Some upcoming events/items the PTA will fund include Field Day, Someone Special Dance, Mother Son Dance and Scholarships.

### Dr. Boccuti's Report

- Safety and security is a top priority.
- Dr. Bocutti attended the Superintendents Conference in Tennessee, the message was Stay the Course and Keep Moving Forward.

- At the last BOE meeting, Dr. Boccuti had a lengthy discussion about the safety procedures on the state, county and local level, including fire drills, bomb threats, weather related drills, etc.
- Dr. Boccuti stated that when the last student enters the building in the morning, the school is locked down. Students no longer leave the school premises for lunch, this has been going on for a while now.
- Dr. Boccuti stated every month, all local police train in a school to facilitate safety exercises. Mountz has hosted this drill.
- Dr. Boccuti stated per the Department of Education, every school has a safety specialist. Dr. Boccuti is the safety specialist for Mountz and will be trained by the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office.
- Dr. Boccuti is working closely with Chief Kerr and BOE on a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Spring Lake Police Department access to live streaming security cameras in the event of an emergency. As a parent, we want everyone in the school safe.
- Dr. Boccuti stated that when there was a car accident on school property, the entire school was evacuated in less than 2 minutes.
- Dr. Boccuti said that he plans to budget for the 2018-2019 school year the construction of a new security alcove located at the front of the school building. The alcove would be a glass structure that is the first point of entry for visitors to the school. Visitors will have to check in, and the school will use it's new visitor management system to run a background check using the visitor's driver's license. A photo ID will be made for the visitor if everything checks out. If not, the alcove gets shut down until the police come and take over. When an approved visitor returns to the school on another date, they will already be in the system and will only need to give his or her name.
- Dr. Boccuti stated the quote received to build the alcove was over \$200,000. Dr. Boccuti stated that revisions will be asked to be made to lower the quote. Mrs. Panzini stated she feels that tax payers would approve to pay for the alcove for the safety it will provide to the students and faculty.
- Mrs. Snyder asked if the new visitor management system could be implemented prior to constructing the alcove and Dr. Boccuti advised this should be in place by the end of this school year.
- Mrs. Matuch asked if the windows are bullet-proof, Dr. Boccuti advised they are not.
- The discussion then moved to the Columbine shooting and all agreed that parents need to be aware of what is going on in our own homes.
- Dr. Boccuti stated it is not recommended to have bushes in front of the school and he may need to talk with the beautification committee.

- Regarding the national initiative on Wednesday, March 14th in reference to students walking out for safety, Dr. Boccuti advised we are proactively planning a "Students Stand Up for Safety" endeavor in collaboration with Chief Kerr and the Spring Lake Police Department. While we want our students to have their voice in this national discussion, we also need to ensure their safety as well while they participate. More information to follow soon.
- Mrs. Lynch asked if a police officer will be stationed here at the school at all times. Dr. Boccuti stated that conversation will have to be had with Chief Kerr and that there are all types of considerations that we can look at.
- Eillen Lin and Dr. Boccuti agreed that we could all talk about this topic at length, but we need to move on.

### **BOE Liaison Update**

- BOE Work Session meeting tonight at 6:30 pm. Regular meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Dr. Bart Sterling is the new BOE liaison for the PTA. Mrs. Panzini stated that she was at the BOE meeting and that Dr. Sterling is not able to attend PTA meetings due to his work schedule and requested someone on the BOE should attend the PTA meetings and vice versa. Eileen Lin stated that she is in contact with Dr. Sterling and John Clark, who is the PTA liaison to the BOE.
- There is an open seat on the BOE and the current board will be interviewing 2 candidates this evening at the work session. Mrs. Panzini recommended everyone attend this meeting to stay involved.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Blood Drive (Colleen Panzini)**

- Blood Drive was a success with 28 pints of blood drawn!
- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade helped with the success as well as Vince Daino.
- Some people who came to donate had to wait because not many people registered on-line in advance. More workers will be sent if we are aware that more donators are expected.

#### **Mother Son Dance (Colleen Panzini)**

- Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, Time TBD Spring Lake Golf Club.
- Theme Roaring 20's.

#### **Someone Special Dance (Diane Moran)**

- Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 7:00 Spring Lake Golf Club.
- An e-blast will be sent out as not many responses have come in.
- The theme will be Fabulous 50's to go along with this year's production of Grease, although there is no need to dress in 50's attire.

**Book Fair** (Mrs. Krebs and Eileen Lin on behalf of Jessica Ressa)

- The Book Fair was a big success nearly doubling what was made in 2017.
- Sales totaled \$5,152.28 with Mrs. Krebs earning \$1,827.07 in Scholastic dollars to purchase library, classroom and birthday books.
- The kids also raised almost \$50 in donations for Rescue Ridge, a local foster-based animal rescue organization.
- The “Bagels and Books” event for Pre-K and Kindergarten had a big turn-out.
- Volunteer response was very light overall, but the people that did pitch in were very dedicated and extremely helpful.

**Kitchen Tour** (Nicole Behler)

- The Kitchen Tour will be held on October 20, 2018, please keep your schedule open that day so you can come out and volunteer.
- We have leads on 4 - 5 houses. Please talk to friends about putting houses on the tour, we would like to have 8 houses.
- A meeting will be held immediately following this meeting to discuss next year.

**New Business**

- The PTA and BOE have approved a much needed library renovation. A committee has begun the process to get ideas for the renovation. We expect this renovation will provide a big visual/functional impact to our library!
- Andrea Scardino announced The Breaker’s would like to support the PTA. Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and lasting until the end of the school year, when you come to the restaurant or for drinks on the porch, tell your server you are a Mountz family, and they will donate 10% of the bill to the PTA! Thank you to the Scardino Family from the PTA!

**Announcements**

- The next PTA Meeting will be Monday, April 16th at 9:00 am.
- Art Night will be March 27<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Submitted by: Noelle Henry, Recording Secretary