

H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Monday, October 1, 2018

9:09 a.m. Call to Order

Recording Secretary's Report

Noelle Henry reported that the September 10, 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 John O'Hearn for your generous scholarship.

Suzanne Newman reported there were some questions regarding the email parents received from the new NJ PTA website called Member Hub when joining this year's PTA. People questioned why they received an email stating they paid \$4, when in fact they paid \$5, (or \$10 as a family). We pay NJ PTA \$4 per person that joins the Mountz PTA, all other funds given to us for the PTA membership is kept by our PTA. We currently have 77 individual members and 24 faculty members. You must be a member to vote, so please sign up! We would like 100% participation from families and faculty.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Moran reported that the Checking account balance is \$164,225.93 and the Savings account balance is \$4,499.11 as of 10/1/18. The October 1st balance includes several deposits from Kitchen Tour ads and sponsors, and many of the expenses for the Kitchen Tour have not yet been paid out. A more realistic indication of the Kitchen Tour P&L will be available in mid to late November.

Last month, we voted and passed the budget for 2018/2019 school year. 8th grade parents asked for back up funding from the PTA in case they do not fundraise enough money to pay for the 8th grade trips. The board discussed the idea and agreed to increase an existing line item called 8th grade event (which has traditionally been used to help pay for graduation refreshments only) by \$1,000. We are also helping the 8th grade obtain a raffle license to raffle 2 bikes at the Kitchen Tour.

Enrichment (Oyuna Marcello)

- Enrichment is off to a great start. Each of the 26 students signed up for Science received a special Harry Potter invitation in their home mailboxes this past weekend. Please sign up through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). Please let us know if you have any idea or suggestions for future enrichment programs. Andrea Scardino asked if high school students could be involved for community service hours - yes, we can look into that.
- Enrichment is now closed. Please remember to sign up next semester on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) asap, as classes do sell out.

- Monday Art (3 students) and Chess (8 students)
- Wednesday Lego Engineering and Coding (6 students) offered by Creativity Lab from Belmar.
- Thursday Science (26 students and 5 8th grade students helping)

Class Parents (Karen Matuch)

- There will be a brief meeting immediately following this meeting for any questions from class parents.
- Eileen Lin asked if any class parents were in the room, and many were, so John Marzullo suggested we take the time to answer any questions.
- The 1st party will be the Halloween party. This is not a lunch as students are dismissed at 12:40 to go home, eat lunch and return to school in costume. They will return to their class, have a parade, then have the party in the class room. The party is short, you should have a game or craft ready, maybe freeze dance etc., a small snack (check with the school nurse and website for appropriate items).
- It would be a good idea for class parents to send an email to the teacher introducing yourself and let them know what your plans are.
- The PTA will reimburse up to \$100 to class parents for parties.
- Signup Genius is a great tool for collecting items and goodies for parties from parents. Some parents are not able to volunteer to be a class parent but are very happy to send in items. They can even donate \$ for pizza.
- Class parents should collect money from parents for a Christmas and year end gift. Please remember aids in class rooms and remind parents to remember teachers of specials.
- All middle school homerooms have class parents, but usually the teachers run the parties, you just need to send in supplies.
- We no longer do scarecrows downtown.
- Eileen Lin requested an email go out to all class parents to share with their homerooms about the Kitchen Tour and how to volunteer. Dede Farmer is coordinating volunteers this year and is working on a list of what is needed from volunteers.
- Gina Lu asked if there is a list of volunteer opportunities for 8th grade students. Nicole Gragnano Behler stated there are many things at the Train Station for 8th Graders.
- Karen Matuch asked if the Manasquan High School Key Club has been contacted for volunteers - yes, Dede Farmer has reached out to them.

Kitchen Tour (Nicole Behler)

- The Kitchen Tour is sold out!!! 750 online tickets were sold. There may still be a few paper tickers being sold downtown.
- 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 are looking for 100% parent participation this year and there are so many ways to volunteer, before, the day of and even after for clean up.

- Dede Farmer will be reaching out soon regarding volunteering. Black pants, white top, comfy shoes.
- 7 awesome houses have been confirmed as well as Larimar.
- 2 new restuaruants this year, Jimmy's in Brielle as well as HW Mountz Alumni James Avery's Farmly!
- There will be a brief Kitchen Tour meeting immediately following this meeting for all committee heads.

Dr. Boccuti's Report

Thank you to the PTA for all you do throughout the year.

- BOE / Safety and Security update -
 - The new intercom system is up and running throughout the school, outside and in the gym.
 - The new visitor management system is up and running.
 - The Sherrifs' office has requested all Monmouth county schools be Geomapped. This was approved by the BOE. All school grounds will be geomapped so that if there is a crisis, first responders will have the floorplan and will know where the crisis is. Police Chief Kerr is on board and has requested both Mountz and St. Catharine's start this process. Plans were sent to begin this process the day after BOE approval.
- Dr. Boccuti is working with Chief Kerr and Lieutenant Giblin, as well as former Police Chief Dawson and Paul Grigg, a public security expert. Dr. Bocutti advised there is a to-do list. These include glazing the windows (Chief Kerr's #1 item). Another item on the list is a One Button Notification System. Another safety measure would be adding potted plants in front of the school/along Tuttle Avenue to avoid car accidents. We are also looking at arming all doors so that we would know if an external door is ajar. We will also be working with the Fire Department to see if the gates behind the school need to be unlocked due to fire codes.
- Library Update - Thanks to the homework of our business admistrator, there is a list of school contractors and we found someone on this list that can come in and help look into the library renovation.
- Today is the first day in our Week of Respect.
- HW Mountz ranked number #36 of the top 100 Public Elementary Schools in New Jersey for 2019 on Patch.com. The middle school ranked 13th.
- We have been using all organic products on our lawns for the past 6 months.
- Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Marzullo asked about timing on glazing the windows and air conditioning the entire school. Dr. Boccuti advised the BOE has been presented with a to-do list from our architect which includes 2 AC options, ventilators or a full new AC system, as well as the need for a roof repair. This could be a \$6 million project and needs to be a continued discussion, possibly a referendum. Dr. Boccuti suggested this may not be able to move forward until 2020.

- Mrs. Lu asked if there is anything that can be done temporarily to make the school more comfortable - Dr. Boccuti advised SLED is open to exploring options to help, but hasn't committed to anything yet.

Announcements

- The PTA will host a BOE candidate forum October, either October 29th at 7:00 pm in the library.
- There were a few mistakes in the calendar, an insert will be sent out with corrections.
- NJ Week of Respect is October 1st - October 5th.
- The Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 31st. Students will go home for lunch and return to school in costumes.
- Next PTA meeting will be Monday, November 5th at 9:00.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Noelle Henry, Recording Secretary