

H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

8:43 a.m. Call to Order

Recording Secretary's Report

Mrs. Snyder reported that the January 20, 2016 minutes had been submitted and reviewed. A MOTION was made to approve the minutes, seconded, and APPROVED by all.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Mrs. Snyder reported on the following notes of thanks sent to the PTA:

- From the Schiavone Family for the flowers sent after Mr. Schiavone's father's passing.
- From Mrs. Mannion for approving the Intermediate team's mini-grant proposal for Chromebook cases.

Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance is \$103,228.50 and the Savings account balance is \$4497.87 as of 2/22/16.

- Mr. Marzullo asked that when members are seeking reimbursement, please fill out a Reimbursement Form (located on the PTA webpage) and also attach receipts (taped) to a blank piece of paper for ease of filing.

Mrs. Walsifer's Report

- Mrs. Walsifer thanked the PTA for the February Staff Development Day Breakfast.
- Informed the PTA that UDL (Universal Design for Learning) is now in Phase Two; extended thanks to the PTA for the training grant.
- Cyber-bullying training program will now be paid by the BOE rather than the PTA.
- PARCC testing
 - New start date – will now commence on 4/4. ELA to be tested prior to Math.
 - H.W. Mountz surpassed both the state and PARCC consortium; a major achievement.
 - Question raised how the PARCC results will be weighted with regard to student's class placement both at Mountz and higher education.
 - Results will remain part of student records.
 - Mrs. Walsifer provided an explanation that the matrix for G&T (gifted and talented) will now need to be revamped and a discussion will be had with administration whether PARCC will be used for academic placement for the 2016-2017 school year.
 - Comment made that PARCC will not be used in local high schools for the next three school years.
- March Nutrition Month
 - Mrs. Bricken announced a panel of nutritionists will host a discussion for parents with regard to healthy eating options for children on 3/24/16 at 7pm. Another panel will be held 3/21 at 9am for students.

- Mrs. Walsifer mentioned possibility of posting the panel for viewing on the school website.
- A discussion took place as to viable snack option that may be sold during the 8th grade pizza day fundraiser (held every Wednesday).
- Mrs. Ressa and Mrs. Petrosini both noted the possibility of 8th graders assisting Mrs. Salway in order to further learn how to appropriately read food labels. This will help determine whether a snack may/may not be sold, in accordance with the state's nutritional guidelines, as well as promote healthy eating.

Dr. Boccuti's Report

- Dr. Boccuti spoke very highly regarding the school's commitment to excellence and looks forward to continuing this.
- New BOE members will be participating in a two hour Board Professional Development and Retreat. This will be held in-district and count toward his/her required professional development hours.
- Dr. Boccuti discussed how the school will use its Blue Ribbon Award to further propel the district forward within the next three years
 - This plan will first be introduced to the staff.
 - Stressed the importance of having the entire district moving forward together in order to reach its common goal.
- Dr. Boccuti thanked the PTA for supporting the BOE in recognizing teacher/student achievements at the 2/22 BOE meeting.
- The 2016-2017 calendar was approved at the 2/22 BOE meeting. The final calendar will be published shortly.
- Dr. Boccuti noted that the district's technology had been complicated by a virus this past week. Parents urged to notify the superintendent's office if they receive any suspect e-mails from the district.

BOE Liaison Update

One question was raised at the 2/22 BOE meeting from the public regarding the pre-k program. Dr. Boccuti addressed this question and will look into the budget process with regard to this.

Committee Updates

Blood Drive

- Mrs. Petrosini announced that the Blood Drive hours this coming Saturday will be extended from 9am-2pm.
 - A record was set last year with 50 donations made.
 - Baby-sitting is available and walk-ins will be accepted until 1:45pm.
 - Students will receive a free homework pass for signing adults up and a pizza party will be awarded to the homeroom with the most sign-ups.
 - A question was raised if the school handbook and calendar could be combined next year in order to be more user-friendly and cost-effective.

Someone Special Dance

Mrs. Petrosini reported that the dance has been moved to 3/13 and will be held at the Spring Lake Golf Club. The theme will be "Oscar Night".

Mother-Son Event

- Mrs. Winn reported that the event will take place on 4/17 from 4-7pm at the Spring Lake Golf Club. The price will be similar to that of the Someone Special Dance.
- Volunteers are needed to do crafts with the younger children, take pictures, and bake cookies as party favors.

Indoor Recess Initiative

- Mrs. Gresh reported that the "Mountz Unplugged" Initiative, having students not using technology during recess, has been a success.
- Game closet in APR has been stocked, ping pong tables are taken out Mon-Fri, and Legos/Hopscotch/ and Racetrack in Library are all utilized during recess on days when there is inclement weather.
- Dr. Boccuti commented on the initiative's success and reported that the students find more time to enjoy each other when "unplugged" during this short time.

PTA Committee Chairs needed for 2016-2017

- Membership Chair: Collects dues, coordinates with the State PTA, and inputs information onto their website. Mostly a Fall position.
- Enrichment Chair: Researches and organizes a variety of after school programs for the students. Fall session and Spring session.

Kitchen Tour (KT) Co-Chairs needed plus the following Committee Chairs:

- Website
- Home Descriptions
- Ad Sales (assist Kerry Patterson)
- Social Media
- On-line Ticket Sales (assist in 2016, take over in 2017)
- Restaurants (assist in 2016, take over in 2017)
- Local Marketing

- Mrs. Gresh proposed beginning a KT succession plan in which there would be (1) Chairperson, (1) Assistant chair and (1) Fine Details Liaison. The plan was then explained in detail, beginning with the Chairperson only needing to commit to one year of this job.
- A suggestion was made to move the event to the Spring to garner more volunteers.
- A comment was made that traditionally the KT has always been a Fall event that people look forward to, as well as extending the local small businesses' season.
- The 2016 KT has been scheduled for Saturday, 10/22. Both the chamber and train station are secure for this date.
- A discussion took place underlining the importance of securing committee chairs.
- A suggestion was made to have students write the home descriptions.

- A suggestion was made to add Restaurant's recipes to the KT journal.
- A discussion took place on how to gain new volunteers for the KT. The KT is a success in its own right, however, volunteerism is low.

New Business

Stay informed about PTA by visiting our Webpage on the school's website. Just click on "Our District", then "Organizations".

Announcements

Next PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 3/16 at 8:40 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Submitted by: Emily Snyder, Recording Secretary