

## H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Monday, May 10, 2017

8:45 a.m. Call to Order

### Recording Secretary's Report

Mrs. Snyder reported that the March 20, 2017 minutes have been submitted and reviewed. A **MOTION** was made to approve the minutes, motion seconded and **APPROVED**.

### Corresponding Secretary's Report

Mrs. Snyder reported on the following note of thanks:

- From Mrs. Jen Cory for the staff gift card and luncheon.
- From Mrs. Julie Reid for the approval of her mini-grant, "Mindfulness for Children".
- From Mrs. Karen Dettlinger for the staff gift card and staff luncheon.
- From Mrs. Julie Reid for the biscotti, gift card, and luncheon during staff appreciation week.
- From Ms. Lucy Muhlenbruck for the staff gift card and luncheon.
- From Ms. Elyse Fattizzi for the staff gift card.
- From Mrs. Donna Campbell for this past week's goodies and staff gift card.
- From Mr. Bruce Blattner for the staff gift card and praise for Mountz students as well.

### Treasurer's Report

- Mr. Marzullo reported that the Checking account balance is \$113,544.17 and the Savings account balance is \$4498.45 as of 5/10/17.
- Mr. Marzullo reminded the PTA that when seeking reimbursement to kindly fill out a Reimbursement Form (located on PTA webpage) and attach receipts to a piece of paper for safekeeping. **\*Please have all receipts in before the last day of school.**

### New Business: PTA Nominating Committee Report

- Mrs. Mawn, Mrs. Mizhir and Mrs. Snyder comprised the 2017 PTA Nominating Committee.
- Mrs. Mawn formally submitted the following candidate slate for election to the H.W. Mountz PTA Board for the 2017-2019 school years:

President: Eileen Lin

Vice President: John Marzullo

Recording Secretary: Noelle Henry

Corresponding Secretary: Suzanne Little

Treasurer: Diane Moran

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for the 2017-2019 school year, motion seconded and **APPROVED**.

### Mrs. Walsifer's Report

- Mrs. Walsifer thanked the PTA for the previous week's staff luncheon and desserts.
- Bike to School Day has been postponed due to PARCC testing.

- Mrs. Walsifer thanked the PTA for all its support during her tenure at Mountz.
- Mrs. Flaherty thanked Mrs. Walsifer for all her efforts while at Mountz.

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

- Mrs. Callahan thanked the PTA for everything that was included in Staff Appreciation Week, especially for including the paraprofessionals and support staff with the gift card contribution.
- Mrs. Callahan reported that the first e-mail blast to the Mountz Community went out last week and was a success. She reminded parents and the PTA to see either herself or Mrs. Cory by Wed. at noon in order for an e-mail to be sent out in the Friday blast.
- Storage – Mrs. Callahan advised the PTA that KT and other PTA items have been moved to the boy’s locker room from the closet across from the elevators on the first floor. Mrs. Callahan asked that old/damaged items be disposed of.
- Community Outreach – Mrs. Callahan noted that this is part of the district’s strategic plan and proposed Mountz orchestrate a school walk-a-thon. Possible date would be next year, after the Kitchen Tour. Proceeds may benefit the Smith Family “Alex’s Lemonade Stand”, or another local cause.
- Staff Wish List Items – Mrs. Callahan discussed the following items brought to her by the staff:
  - Steam Maker Station: primary team; cart containing various manipulatives. Estimate varies as each cart may include a variety of different items.
  - Umbrellas for outdoor picnic tables. A suggestion was made to buy from a major company (i.e. L.L Bean) for its flexible return policy.
  - Mini I-Pads for primary grades. A suggestion was made to also purchase Canon selfie cameras for primary grade projects.
  - Library refurbishment: The Library is due for an update and teachers would like to see it more child-centered. Mrs. Callahan distributed illustrations outlining ideas. Dr. Boccutti advised that he has asked Mrs. Krebs and Mr. Soto to tour other school’s renovated libraries for ideas.
- Mrs. Flaherty recommended that the first three ideas be brought to the PTA as mini-grant requests. The refurbishment of the Library would be a separate project.
- It was noted that the Steam Makers would be considered a top priority and the PTA asked Mrs. Callahan to pursue this as a mini-grant, as the PTA would like them to be utilized September 2017.
- Mrs. Callahan thanked the PTA for their support and reported that the teachers look forward to the direction the school is moving in and praised Mountz students. Additionally, she encouraged parents to reach out to their child’s teacher for support.
- Mrs. Callahan reported later in the meeting that after conferring with Mrs. Roberts, the Steam Maker carts will cost \$1k/grade, \$4k total. She requested that the PTA set a budget for the total amount to be spent on the carts and the teachers can then work within that budget to fill the carts.
- Referring to the mini-iPads, Dr. Boccutti noted that the district’s chrome books work well, however Apple is more user-friendly, especially for primary grades.

### **Dr. Boccutti’s Report**

- Dr. Boccutti thanked the current PTA board and welcomed the newly elected PTA board.

- Dr. Boccuti emphasized the importance of teachers at the school and commended our educators in both the primary and middle schools. He cited the middle school teacher's presentation at the last BOE meeting as an example.
- Updated grade curriculum will be outlined on the district website for all grades for the following school year.
- Spanish report – the administration has received very positive feedback regarding our new interim Spanish teacher, Ms. Seise. Spanish will be forgoing benchmarks for the final semester. Multiple applications have been submitted to the district now that it is listed as a F/T position. The new Spanish teacher will confer with the MHS Spanish teacher in order to prepare Mountz 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for Spanish 2.
- Fifty applications have been submitted to the district for Mrs. Walsifer's position after only two days being posted. The applicants will undergo a five-level interview process.
- After Care – Dr. Boccuti is analyzing both Brielle and Wall as a model for this. Parents may choose the number of days/week. Homework assistance and enrichment will be offered.
- Dr. Boccuti expressed his enthusiasm for the multiple upcoming spring events throughout the district.
- This Friday is the final day presentations and tours will take place for parents in the Virtual Learning Lab.
- Dr. Boccuti is proud to be serving as a Spring Lake Library Board Trustee as the School Superintendent.

**B.O.E. Liaison Update** – Mr. Daino spoke on behalf of Mrs. Valori

- Mr. Daino advised the PTA that the 2017-18 school year budget has passed. This budget maintains all current staff positions, the implementation of a F/T art teacher, new initiatives and a tax cut to Spring Lake residents.
- The BOE accepted the resignations of two staff members, Mrs. Walsifer and Mrs. Krug, at its last meeting.
- The Middle School team presented a new grading scale to the BOE at its last meeting.
- Mr. Daino thanked the current PTA board members in supporting the district and welcomed the new board members.

**Committee Updates**

Mother-Son Event

- Thank you to Mrs. Winn and Mrs. Panzini for providing a fun Hawaiian-themed night, complete with a photographer and homemade notes from the sons to their moms.

Mini Grants (Mrs. Flaherty)

- A special round of mini-grants has been voted on:
  - Online digital text books from Discovery for Science, grades 3-8.
  - Mrs. Roberts "Bugs and Critters" request to take the K class on a field trip to the Manasquan reservoir.
  - New School Flags, submitted by Mrs. Campbell.

- “Mindfulness for Children” submitted by Mrs. Reid. A 6-week course for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade to attend Fleet Week in NYC with Mr. Destefano.

#### Enrichments (Mrs. Lin)

- 56 students are currently enrolled. Emphasized the importance of supplementing the school day and that it is offered at a discounted rate.
- Various activities now offered: STEAM, Mind/Body, Music, Environment, Sports, etc.
- Mad Science and Garden Club were the top 2 attended enrichments.
- Mrs. Lin discussed the upcoming Camp Invention this summer.

#### Teacher Appreciation (Mrs. Mawn and Mrs. Snyder)

- Mrs. Mawn and Mrs. Snyder discussed the Staff Appreciation week that took place last week, beginning with biscotti on Monday morning with massage-signups for Friday, a staff luncheon held on Thursday and \$50 gift cards distributed to all staff members on Friday.
- Thank you to all Mountz families who contributed to Thursday’s luncheon.

Field Day – Will take place Monday, 6/12 from 8:30-12:40. The rain date will be Wednesday, 6/14.

End of Year PTA Party – will be held on Wednesday, 6/14 at the Breakers Hotel from 7-9pm. It will take place on the lower level, Newark Ave. entrance. Please RSVP to Katie Flaherty: [katieflaherty@aol.com](mailto:katieflaherty@aol.com) by Monday, June 12.

#### PTA Committee Chair’s needed for 2017-2018:

Sunshine Committee – Dede Farmer accepted.

Art Gallery – Jessica Rehill accepted.

New Families Coordinator – Jen Shea accepted.

Staff Appreciation In-Service Days – John Stickle accepted.

Beautification – Cheryl Lynch accepted.

Enrichment – volunteer needed.

Thank you to all parent volunteers for accepting chair positions. The PTA is always in need of volunteer support.

#### Kitchen Tour Committee Chairs needed for 2017:

- On-line ticket sales
- Home descriptions

The Kitchen Tour website will be running next week. Prices will be as follows: \$65 online and \$60 in stores. The KT is reducing ticket sales this year by 20%. Cheryl Lynch volunteered to assist in ad-sales.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Submitted by: Emily Snyder, Recording Secretary