



**PTO Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2017**

In attendance: Darcy Carn, Jenn Kohan, Leah Ann Sheehan, Suzanne Scott, Lisa Wood, Galia Sicard, Florencia Squizzato, Shannon Seyda, Amy Medina, Sue Gully, Kendra Morris, Bobbi Patel, Andrea Briggs, Kathy Powers, Patty Paugh, Joelle Varner, Eileen Shanahger, Emily Palla, Aviva Gans, Jennifer Dawson, Christie Burd, Jane Fragnito

Minutes from the March 15, 2017 meeting were approved.

The minutes have been amended since it was pointed out that S.P.O.R.T. has been more involved this year with volunteering on Food Days and working with vendors.

Financial Report

Suzanne reported the Gillette Book Fair brought in \$792.78. The PTO fulfilled several teacher requests including Ms. Backer's request for the Screenagers presentation, storage bags for books for the 2nd - 4th grade teams, Ms. Varner's request for woodwind reeds, and Mrs. Fragnito's request for books for her classroom. The PTO covered the Tiger Talk newspaper stipend for Mr. Gillespie and expenses for the newspaper. A donation was made to the Central School Student Funds for the Central School Consortium fee. The Millington Mural was a huge success thanks to Sara Malcolm and all her volunteers. The PTO paid Morris Arts for their services to help complete the mural. A contribution was made to the Maija Golden Writing Fund. Finally, items have been purchased for Gillette's field day and the 5th grade picnic.

Account balances as of March 15, 2017

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts:

Bingo	49,709.31
Central School Funds	1,028.36
Checking Account (MS)	58,128.46
Dedicated Fund	38,809.20
Recreation Fund - Savings	505.33
TOTAL ASSETS	148,180.66

LIABILITIES

Central School Party Dues	-852.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-852.17

OVERALL TOTAL	149,032.83
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President's Report

Jenn and Darcy welcomed everyone to the meeting. They thanked Sara, the Cultural Arts Committee, parents and teachers for their shared effort in completing the Millington Mural. It was a big project and the final result is beautiful. There will be an unveiling before the end of the year. Staff Appreciation lunches are being planned. More information will be coming. Jenn explained that voting for teacher requests over \$1,500 will now be completed via ballots at general meetings.

Vice President's Report

Leah Ann shared that the Super 50/50 tickets will be coming home soon. Field Days are being organized and parent volunteers are needed. Gillette Field Day is May 12th and Millington Field Day is June 2nd. Leah Ann also mentioned there will be some new fundraising opportunities next year.

Secretary's Report

Lisa read numerous thank you cards. The 2nd and 3rd grade teachers were grateful for the book bags. The Golden Family shared their appreciation for the donation in memory of their daughter. The Gillette School faculty and students are excited for the new playground equipment. The 2017 WHRHS Project Graduation committee thanked the PTO for its support. Mrs. Dawson expressed her appreciation for the welcome back flowers. Mrs. Clark's kindergarten students signed a thank you card for the Read Across America and book fair books.

School Representatives' Report

Florencia shared the events at Gillette School.

May	11	Spring Pictures
	12	Field Day
	25	Spirit Day – Wear red, white, and blue
June	1	Social
	5	1 st graders visit Millington School
	9	Kindergarten Send Off Concert

Galia shared the events of Millington School.

May	11	Spring Pictures
	16	Choral Concert
	17	Environmental Day for 2 nd graders, sponsored by the PTO
	23	Colonial Day for 5 th graders, sponsored by the PTO
	24	Science Fair for 4 th graders, sponsored by the PTO
	26	Spirit Day – wear red, white, and blue
June	31	NJASK Science test for 4 th graders (make ups June 7 th)
	2 nd	Field Day (rain date June 9 th) – No food day
	6 th	Book fair
	13 th	5 th grade trip to NJ Sea Grant Consortium at Sandy Hook
	15 th	5 th grade picnic

Amy shared the events of Central School.

April	21-28	Grade 8 PARCC testing
May	1-5	Grade 7 PARCC testing
	8-12	Grade 6 PARCC testing
	11	Victorian Day for 7 th graders, sponsored by the PTO
	24	Spring Concert 7PM
	26	Music Trip to Dorney Park
June	1	8 th grade parents' meeting about D.C. trip

- 5 5th graders visit Central School
- 5 5th grade parent orientation at 7PM
- 8-9 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.
- 9 Medieval Day for 6th graders, sponsored by the PTO
- 15 8th grade dance
- 16 8th grade breakfast
- 21 All School Picnic, compliments of the PTO
- 21 8th grade Graduation 7PM

Teacher’s Report

Mrs. Powers reported that many pieces of Long Hill students’ artwork will be displayed this weekend in the Rockaway Mall as part of the MCCEA Pride in Our Schools Mall project. She also commented that the teachers were happy to help with the mural.

Administration Report

Mrs. Dawson reported that Gillette and Millington will be having a Spring picture day on May 11th with Lifetouch photographers. Order forms will be coming home soon. The students are busy with PARCC testing. Check the school websites for dates for specific classes.

New Business/Announcements

Aviva Gans, Physical Therapist for the Long Hill schools, spoke about LHPPEC - Long Hill Parents and Professionals for Exceptional Children. This organization has been in existence since 2008 and has been devoted to promoting communication between parents, the community, and teachers who are involved, or interested in, children with special needs. Meetings are an opportunity for parents to share concerns and strategies regarding their children. They have sponsored a variety of speakers over the years and often the topics are relevant to all parents. For more information, contact Ms.Gans at agans@longhill.org.

Teacher Requests

The following teacher requests were voted on and approved:

Eileen Shanagher, music teacher at Millington School, requested \$500 for 2 snare drums for the 5th grade band. The 2 snare drums would be used for 7 drummers and will replace a very old piece of equipment, which she brought to the meeting.

Danielle Bauer, Gillette School, requested \$1,930 for a laminator to be used on printed books to help them last longer. The laminator will be used by the entire school. The old laminator was purchased by the PTO in 2001. It continuously breaks down and is no longer under warranty. Rolls of laminating film are bought through the Gillette School budget.

Joelle Varner, music teacher at Central Middle School, requested \$3,687.99 for a new Tuba in order to have a properly working instrument to be used to help student players be successful and strengthen the foundation of the entire ensemble. Ms. Varner elaborated on the needs of a new tuba. She brought the old tuba to the meeting and explained why certain tiers of musical instruments are purchased rather than rented.

Patricia Paugh, librarian at Central Middle School, requested \$3,957.34 for books of various titles to update the library collection, support the 40 book challenge, and provide copies of books used in literature circles in the classroom.

The 3rd grade team requested \$299.96 for 4 sets of book bins in assorted colors (\$74.99 each) to store Library and student “just right” books in the classroom.

Stacie Holzinger, first grade teacher at Gillette school, requested \$131.32 for 28 Book pouches for the students to store their books used during guided reading.

The following teacher requests were discussed:

Patricia Paugh, librarian at Central Middle School, is requesting \$2,418.80 to purchase 146 shelf-ready books that arrive monthly, giving the students new titles to choose from. The selections are professionally curated and often become award winning books. Mrs. Paugh elaborated on the need and benefits of these new books.

Dr. Jones, Principal at Gillette School is requesting \$5,800 to do a mural in the All Purpose Room next spring. The price has increased by \$700 since this was originally discussed at the November meeting. The same artist completed both pieces of the Millington Mural. Parents and administration were pleased with the results and enjoyed working with the artist. This would most likely take place in May 2018 due to availability of the artist and during a month that the students could go outside for gym classes and various activities. A question was raised if another artist could be found who has availability earlier in the year.

Mrs. Dawson, Principal at Millington School, is requesting \$21,581.00 for 100 lockers for the 5th graders to be placed in the 5th grade hallway at Millington school. Mrs. Dawson explained that she and the 5th grade team felt lockers would benefit overall classroom organization and decrease classroom disruptions. It was questioned if 100 lockers would be sufficient for larger classes in the future and if other solutions to the classroom interruptions had been explored. There were concerns if this was an appropriate use of PTO funds. It was also asked if the old lockers from Central could be used.

Additional Comments

The next PTO meetings are May 15th and June 14th (end of the year dinner at Chimney Rock.)

Closing