



**PTO Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2017**

In attendance: Darcy Carn, Jenn Kohan, Leah Ann Sheehan, Sara Malcolm, Jill Miller, Suzanne Scott, Lisa Wood, Galia Sicard, Florencia Squizzato, Lori Jones, Jeni Clark, Kathy Powers, Jen Tremarco, Nicole Liebler, Ann Butler, Danielle Hotra, Kristen Oleske, Sue Gully, Patty Paugh.

Minutes from the February 22, 2017 meeting were approved.

Financial Report

Jill reported that the talent show numbers have been finalized. The event brought in \$4697.85. Bingo/Basket Raffle night was a big success thanks to Lora, Florencia, and their crew of volunteers. The event raised \$15,224.89, which was \$5,000 more than what was budgeted. Expenses this month included Visiting Author Mara Rockliff, cookies and juice for Family Reading night, a \$75 donation towards Central School play, and flowers for the music teachers. The PTO fulfilled a number of requests including a new easel at Gillette for Ms. Sinott, Mr. Laubscher's request for books by Mara Rockliff for the Millington library, Dr. Seuss' books for Read Across America program at Gillette, and Ms. Backer's request for the Power of One presentations at Millington and Central. The PTO cultural arts committee sponsored presentations by Scott Chesney in Millington and Central. The Gillette Book fair was also a success thanks to Lisa DeFazio. Final numbers are not in yet. The PTO purchased books from the teachers' wish lists to be used in classroom libraries. In order to minimize cash outputs from our members, the PTO has obtained debit cards from Millington Bank, with one president and one treasurer as authorized users. As a reminder, all check reimbursement requests should continue to be directed only to the treasurer (Jill Miller.)

Account balances as of March 15, 2017

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

Bingo	34,471.35
Central School Funds	1,028.28
Checking Account (MS)	77,314.81
Dedicated Fund	38,799.80
Recreation Fund - Savings	505.21
TOTAL ASSETS	152,119.45

LIABILITIES

Central School Party Dues	-852.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-852.17

OVERALL TOTAL 152,971.62

President's Report

Jenn and Darcy welcomed everyone to the meeting. They shared some positive feedback on the Scott Chesney presentation and commented on the nice turnout of parents. Jenn reported that the Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance has invited Long Hill parents to two upcoming events. The "15-Minute Child Break" Parent Presentation will be on Thursday, March 30th in Central School at 7pm. The feature film documentary "The Anonymous People" will be shown on Monday, April 3rd at the WHRHS auditorium at 7pm. The WHRMA is a volunteer organization providing local communities with drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs. More information can be found on the PTO Facebook page. Finally, the End of the Year Dinner will be Wednesday, June 14th at the Chimney Rock Inn from 7:30pm-9:30pm.

Vice President's Report

Sarah gave an update on the Millington Mural. The fifth graders will be painting on April 7th and the fourth graders will be painting on April 17th. If a student is absent on one of those dates, there will be other opportunities to participate. An email will be sent home soon asking for parent volunteers. Leah Ann shared that there may be some fundraising changes next year. She thanked Jill for sharing the fundraising amounts in her financial report.

Secretary's Report

Lisa read thank you cards from Mrs. Omelio, Mrs. Holzinger, Ms. Bauer, Mrs. Piscioti, Ms. Castro, and Ms. Sinnott who were grateful for the additional books the PTO purchased from the Gillette Book Fair wish lists. Ms. Sinnott also shared her appreciation for the new easel the PTO purchased last month. The PTO has made a donation to the Maija Golden Creating Writing Fund.

School Representatives' Report

Florencia shared the events at Gillette School.

March	22	"White Out" Bully Day – wear white
	30	1 st grade concert 10:45am and 1:45pm
April	7	Spirit Day – wear blue and gold
	18	Kindergarten Workshop 9:30am - 10:30am
	19	Kindergarten Workshop 12:45pm - 1:45pm
May	11	Spring Pictures

Galia shared the events of Millington School.

March	22	"White Out" Bully Day – wear white
	27	PARCC testing window opens for 3 rd -5 th graders until May 19 th
April	7	Spirit Day – wear blue and gold
	4-20	Completion of the Millington Mural, sponsored by the PTO
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

Darcy shared the events of Central School.

March	22	"White Out" Bully Day – wear white.
	23-25	"Legally Blonde" performances at Central School
April	5	Consortium Event – Science Competition, sponsored by the PTO
	18	Consortium Event – World Culture Day, sponsored by the PTO

	21	7 th grade trip to Great Adventure: Physics and Math Day
	26	Consortium Event – Math Relay, sponsored by the PTO
May	11	tentative Victorian Day for 7 th graders, sponsored by the PTO
	26	Music Trip to Dorney Park

Teacher’s Report

Mrs. Power reported that many teachers attended Bingo night. She had additional information on the teacher requests if needed.

Administration Report

Dr. Jones reported that Gillette is preparing for the Kindergarten Workshop and the Kindergarten Screenings. She mentioned that teachers are having students in grades 2-8 write response pieces to Scott Chesney’s presentation.

Teacher Requests

The following requests were discussed, voted on (since under \$200), and approved by the executive board:

Patricia Paugh, Librarian, Central School, requested \$51.15 for particular books on local Long Hill History.

Patricia Paugh, Librarian, Central School, requested \$62.16 for book easels for display.

Joelle Varner, music teacher, Central Middle School, requested \$97.80 for various reeds for students use.

Joelle Varner, music teacher, Central Middle School, requested \$148.04 for percussion mallets.

The following teacher requests were voted on and approved:

Dr. Jones, Principal, Gillette School, requested \$9,795 plus shipping/handling for a new playground slide climber to replace the 2 horse rockers at the Gillette School playground. Last month Jenn shared additional details and an illustration of the slide climber. She explained shipping and installation is usually an additional 1/3 of the cost; therefore, the actual price will be \$11,676. Dr. Jones mentioned there could be some fundraising in the future for some additional pieces.

Melissa Backer, Dean of Students, requested \$650 to buy the rights to show the documentary “Screenagers.” Last month Ms. Backer elaborated on the program, which covers social media, video games, internet use and how to navigate through a digital world. The 5th - 8th graders will be viewing the documentary along with a moderator on May 16th. There will be an evening presentation for parents on May 17th.

Jane Fragnito, 5th grade teacher, Millington School, requested \$265 for 25 copies of *Number the Stars* to be used for class novel study.

Jane Fragnito, 5th grade teacher, Millington School, requested \$318.50 for 25 copies of *Bridge to Terabithia* to be used for class novel study.

The 2nd grade, 3rd grade, and 4th grade teams requested \$212.99 for 17 sets (102 total) of storage bags for each grade level, for the students’ “just right books” used for guided and independent reading. Ms. Tremarco and Ms. Liebler were present and elaborated on the benefits of the bags.

The following teacher requests were discussed:

Eileen Shanagher, music teacher, Millington School, is requesting \$500 for 2 snare drums for the 5th grade band which would be used for 7 drummers. This request is to replace a very old piece of equipment.

Danielle Bauer, first grade teacher, Gillette School, is requesting \$1,930 for a laminator to be used on printed books to help them last longer. Dr. Jones elaborated on the request. 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, Central Middle School, is requesting \$3,687.99 for a new tuba in order to help student players be successful and strengthen the foundation of the entire ensemble. She sent an email elaborating on the benefits of a new tuba. It was questioned if renting a tuba was a viable option and what happens to the old tuba.

Patricia Paugh, Librarian, Central Middle School, is requesting \$3,957.34 for 274 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. Mrs. Paugh was present and elaborated on the need and benefits of these new books.

Additional Comments

Since there will be a one-to-one initiative next year with Chromebooks for students at Central, it was questioned if there will be a need for more electronic titles and resources.

There was a discussion about various ways to organize Box Tops collections in the future. This year \$2,900 has been raised which will be placed in the PTO general funds.

A question was asked if the PTO could make a donation specifically to the FORCE Robotics Club, the music department, and/or S.P.O.R.T. It was explained that the proceeds of two Food Days at Central School go towards S.P.O.R.T.

There was a discussion about the different parent groups (PTO, FORCE, SPORT, and PAC). Each has its own focus and parents can be involved in all the groups. A question was asked if all the parent groups could meet.

Darcy invites all parents and teachers to attend PTO meetings and encourages them to participate in the discussions. The next PTO meetings are April 26th, May 17th, and the End of Year dinner June 14th.

Closing