



**PTO Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2016**

Welcome and Announcements

In attendance: Jill Long, Alex Gallant, Shannon Seyda, Lisa Wood, Amy Medina, Galia Sicard, Kathy Powers, Lauren Franklin, Sara Lesende, Jeni Clark, Nicole Dilkes, Ann Butler.

Guest Speaker: Nicole Dilkes, Dean of Students: “Morning Meetings”

Mrs. Dilkes continued her discussion of the second section of the NJ Anti-bullying law which fosters a Positive School Climate. Mrs. Dilkes gave many examples of “Morning Meetings” and also showed a video of what these meetings could look like. In Long Hill they are held few times a week in K-4 classrooms. Students and teachers gather together in a circle for about 15 minutes and interact with one another during four purposeful components: Greeting: Students and teachers greet one other by name and practice offering hospitality. Sharing: Students share information about important events in their lives. Listeners often offer empathetic comments or ask clarifying questions. Group Activity: Everyone participates in a brief, lively activity that fosters group cohesion and helps students practice social and academic skills (for example, reciting a poem, dancing, singing, or playing a game that reinforces social or academic skills). Morning Message: Students read and interact with a short message written by their teacher. The message is crafted to help students focus on the work they’ll do in school that day. “Morning Meetings” follow the *Responsive Classroom* approach to teaching that emphasizes academic, social, and emotional growth in a strong school community. It is based on the premise that children learn best when they have both academic and social-emotional skills.

Minutes from previous meeting

The meeting minutes from January 21, 2016 were approved.

President’s Report

Jill gave an update on the Bingo/Basket fundraiser. So far 183 tickets out of 200 have been sold. Baskets are still coming in. Jill also confirmed that we will have the Kid Stuff Fundraiser next year.

Vice President’s Report

Shannon reported that Wizards game is Friday, April 8th at WHRHS. March 11th is the Wizards Assembly. Tickets will go on sale online that afternoon at 4:00PM. The flyer will be going home next week with all the information. Two years ago the event sold out in 3 days! There are three types of tickets: Courtside Plus, Reserved, and General Admission. New this year is the option to pre-order Pizza/water bottle. Also a Wiz Kid Jersey can be purchased with an opportunity to warm up with the Wizards.

Financial Report

Alex reviewed the financial report. She commented our financials are in good shape.

Account balances as of February 17, 2016

Assets:

Bingo	\$ 20,872.84
Central School Funds	954.99
Checking Account (MSB)	33,952.88

Dedicated Fund	38,744.39
Recreation Fund - Savings	<u>504.45</u>
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$ 95,029.55
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 95,029.55
<u>Liabilities:</u>	
CS Party Dues	<u>\$ 955.06</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 955.06
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 94,074.49

Secretary’s Report

Lisa read a thank you card from the Millington School Staff who are very appreciative of the new laminator. Their card included 59 signatures and listed of all the benefits and uses of the laminator. The PTO also received a thank you letter from Karen Burgerhoff of Millington School who shared how much she enjoyed the Long Hill’s Got Talent Show. She thanked Jen DeMizio and her committee and commented how wonderful it was to see so many former Long Hill students.

School Representatives’ Report

Amy shared the events of Central School.

February	23	CogAT for 6 th graders
	24	CogAT makeup
March	3	Victorian Day for 7 th graders
	11	Wizards Assembly 9:20AM

Galia shared the events of Millington School.

February	11	Valentine’s Day Ice Cream socials
	19	Spirit Day – “Tie Die”
	24-26	CogAT for 4 th graders
March	4	Colonial Life: Kit’s Interactive Theatre 2 nd /3 rd grades sponsored by the PTO
	4	Revolutionary War:Kit’s Interactive Theatre 4 th /5 th grades sponsored by the PTO
	11	Wizards Assembly
	18	Spirit Day – “Favorite Sport’s Team”

The Book Fair will be in June.

Florencia shared the events at Gillette School.

March	2	Family Reading Night 6PM
	2	Book Fair
	7	White Out Bulling Day
	11	Wizards Assembly 11:20AM
	17	First Grade Spectacular

Teacher’s Report

Mrs. Powers shared that Mrs. Arango had a baby girl. Mr. Golub welcomed a baby girl and Mr. Gillespie welcomed a baby boy.

Administration Report

Mrs. Dilkes reported that the PARCC window is April 4th to May 16th. She commented that testing will not start immediately on the 4th since the students are returning from Spring Recess. The ESL program has its own standardized testing in March.

Teacher Requests

The following requests were voted on and approved:

Jeni Clark, 1st Grade Teacher, Gillette School, requested \$312.66 for 27 Dr. Seuss books (3 for each of the 9 classrooms) to enhance Gillette’s “Read Across America” program.

The Gillette School Staff requested \$118.99 for a Keurig Coffee machine.

There were no requests to be discussed.

Additional comments

Mrs. Clark spoke about Read Across America Week. Every day there is a different story shared in a variety of ways. Each classroom's door is decorated as a Dr. Seuss book. On Family Reading Night there are guest readers as families travel to different classrooms. It is wonderful week that students, teachers, and families enjoy.

Ann Butler gave an update on the "*Box Tops*" collections and she reminded everyone to send them in by the end of the month. The class with the most collected will receive cupcakes. Families can also send in "*Labels for Education*," otherwise known as *Campbell Soup* labels. These are different types of labels and are not counted in the Box Top contest. However the district does receive credit for Labels for Education under a separate program.

Closing