



**PTO Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2017**

In attendance: Darcy Carn, Jenn Kohan, Leah Ann Sheehan, Jill Miller, Lisa Wood, Galia Sicard, Amy Medina, Florencia Squizzato, Ann Butler, Melissa Backer, Jeni Clark, Jennifer Sinnott, Ed Acevedo, Kathy Powers, Ann Butler.

Minutes from the January 22, 2017 meeting was approved.

Financial Report

Jill reported that the Talent Show sold \$6,365 in tickets. The rental fees and other expenses still need to be finalized. The third grade International Day was a success and is currently under budget. A few more expenses need to be submitted. \$400 was donated to Watchung Hills Regional High School's annual project graduation celebration, which is an annual line item on the PTO budget. Devils tickets netted the PTO \$140. Finally, the PTO anticipates fulfilling several upcoming teacher/administration requests.

Account balances as of February 22, 2017

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

Bingo	34,491.35
Central School Funds	1,028.28
Checking Account (MS)	64,681.78
Dedicated Fund	38,799.80
Recreation Fund - Savings	505.21
TOTAL ASSETS	139,506.42

LIABILITIES

Central School Party Dues	-852.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-852.17

OVERALL TOTAL	140,358.59
----------------------	-------------------

President's Report

Jenn and Darcy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jenn thanked Florencia and Llorca for all their work with the Bingo/Basket Raffle night. Darcy reported that the Millington Mural will be completed in the All Purpose Room. Parent volunteers will be needed from April 4th-7th and 17th-20th. Darcy shared that on March 9th Scott Chesney will speak to students at Millington and Central. His presentation is called "Dream, Believe and Work to Achieve." Parents are welcome

to view the presentation, which is funded through the cultural arts budget. For more information, visit www.scottchesney.com. Finally, the executive board will be meeting soon to start planning for next year.

Vice President's Report

Leah Ann shared the Bingo/Basket Raffle is February 24th in Millington School. A few spots are still available. So far there are 117 baskets to be auctioned. On Friday afternoon 3:30-4:30pm families are welcome to bring their children to the Millington All Purpose Room to purchase tickets to win baskets. The winning tickets will be chosen later in the evening. Winners need not be present. Leah Ann also commented that The Long Hill's Got Talent 2017 was a great success. The LHT PTO Night at the New Jersey Devils was also a fun night and the final numbers will be in soon.

Secretary's Report

Lisa shared a card from Ms. Palla and her third class who thanked the PTO for a making International Day a huge success. Mrs. Holzinger also sent a card expressing her appreciation for the horseshoe table which has already been put to great use. The PTO wishes to thank the third grade teachers and fifth grade teacher Mrs. Franco for their help and support during International Day. The third graders really enjoyed their presentation on Ellis Island.

School Representatives' Report

Florencia shared the events at Gillette School.

February	27	Visit by author Mike Rex, sponsored by the PTO
	28	Book Fair
March	1	Family Reading Night and Book Fair

Galia shared the events of Millington School.

February	22-24	CoGat Testing for 4 th graders
	21	Power of One assembly, sponsored by the PTO
March	7	Visit by Author Mara Rockliff for 2 nd and 3 rd graders, sponsored by PTO
	10	Spirit Day – Favorite Sport Team
	27	PARCC testing window opens for 3 rd -5 th graders until May 19 th .

Amy shared the events of Central School.

February	22-24	CoGat Testing for 6 th graders
	23	Consortium Event - Forensics Competition, sponsored by the PTO
March	23-25	"Legally Blonde" performances
April	3	Consortium Event – Science Competition, sponsored by the PTO
	18	Consortium Event – World Culture Day, sponsored by the PTO

Teacher's Report

Mrs. Power reported that the teachers are looking forward to Bingo night. They appreciated being recognized at the Talent Show.

Administration Report

Dr. Acevedo gave an update on the remedial work being completed as a result of the lead testing. He announced there will be a Principals' Coffee in Millington School on March 13th at 1PM. He reported that he met with a group of parents, teachers, administrators, and board members to discuss the Horizons and Gifted/Talented Programs. He will be meeting with the Curriculum Committee on March 15th. Due to the recent tragedy in our community, there will be no tests on Thursday and Friday.

Ms. Backer thanked parents for their support of the new character education programs.

Teacher Requests

The following requests were discussed, voted on (since under \$500), and approved:

Jennifer Sinnott, 1st grade teacher, Gillette School, requested \$242.95 for a dry erase board. Ms. Sinnott was present at the meeting and expanded on how she would use the boards in her classroom for anchor charts and during read aloud time.

Jeni Clark, 1st grade teacher, Gillette School, requested \$282.40 through Amazon for 35 copies of specific Dr. Seuss books to enhance the "Read Across America" program. She was present at the meeting and elaborated on the week long events at Gillette School.

Melissa Backer, Dean of Students, requested \$425 for a "Power of One" anti-bullying assembly presented to the 4th-5th graders and \$425 for a "Power of One" anti-bullying assembly presented to the 2nd-3rd graders. Ms. Backer was present at the meeting and shared more details about the assemblies.

The following teacher requests were discussed:

Dr. Jones, Principal, Gillette School, is requesting \$9,795 plus shipping/handling for a new playground slide climber to replace the 2 horse rockers at Gillette School playground. Jenn shared additional details and an illustration of the slide climber. She explained that shipping and installation is usually an additional 1/3 of the cost. The final cost for this one piece comes to approximately \$11,700. It was discussed if a committee could be formed to organize fundraising since a larger revamped playground would cost approximately \$50,000. It was also questioned if improvements could be made to the fields since children often want open space during recess. Jenn thanked Kathy O'Leary for all of her hard work in the beginning of this process and for getting the proposals put together.

Melissa Backer, Dean of Student, is requesting \$650 to buy the rights to show the documentary "Screenagers." Ms. Backers elaborated on the program, which covers social media, video games, internet use and how to navigate through a digital world. There will be 2-3 viewings, one being in the evening so parents may attend.

Additional Comments

A question was asked if there was a policy about homework over long weekends/vacations. Dr. Acevedo suggested reaching out to the building principal.

There was a discussion about having a district wide initiative to encourage less screen time. Years ago the PTO sponsored a TV Smashers week. Perhaps something similar could be planned.

Closing