

November 12, 2019

Cari Sacks called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

**MTP Board in Attendance:** **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Cari Sacks **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Michelle Krikau **Treasurer:** Renee Postel **Recording Secretary:** Lisa DelBorrello **Corresponding Secretary:** Kristi Bellissimo **Council Delegate:** Kristy D'Errico **Minutes:** Minutes from October 2019 were approved. **Correspondence:** Thank you letters were read from teachers and students thanking the PTA for the donation for indoor recess supplies, for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade activities and resulting memories and to the Beautification Committee for the grooming of the school's outdoor areas. **Treasurer's Report:** Opening Balance 10/16/19: \$34,372.68 Closing Balance 11/12/19: \$43,638.72

**Board Reports: Reflections PTA Art Contest** participants, were acknowledged. Each received a certificate as well as a gift certificate for a sweet treat. The projects were wonderful. The funds raised from last year's **Boosterthon** were recently utilized towards replenishing supplies for indoor recess. Every teacher including the special education department and support staff members were given a budget with which to buy games, crafts, art supplies, incentive rewards and more for their students. The faculty, administrators and students all hailed the idea initially suggested by PTA member Val Fontana. The board thanked the **Red Ribbon Week Committee** for accomplishing the mission of advocating drug-free and anti-bullying awareness to our students. Mrs. Sacks relayed news from the Superintendent's meeting that a lot has been put in place in the district for emergencies. Fire drills will take place at unexpected times like during lunch and recess.

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Ierano provided details on the decisions made during the **power loss** caused by a downed tree on November 1. The superintendent was on premises, as was PSEG, and they deemed the school could operate safely considering generators were working, the com/PA system was running, many bathrooms were functioning, and we had some lights, running water etc. An unexpected transformer blew, however, as the crews were working on the lines, delaying the full restoration of electricity until roughly 2 pm. The students were actually uplifted, calm and quite enjoying the change in the daily routine. PTA members were even able to complete the task of updating the hall bulletin boards, taking the 5<sup>th</sup> grade group photo and completing retakes of other students' photos. Mr. Ierano also said that the indoor **Halloween parade** was a tremendous success as well. While it was unfortunate that parents could not come due to the rain out, the indoor parade was very well enjoyed by all the students. Some pictures were posted on the school's social media/website. He also said that first trimester **report cards** are presently being drafted for distribution, and 20-minute parent teacher conferences will subsequently take place. If extra time is needed, teachers and special areas will certainly be accommodating, but please inform them ahead of time. Mills Pond principal Mrs. Westrack invited the children of all the district's schools to attend its upcoming visiting author night. The hand projects sent in during Red Ribbon week are proudly on display in the cafeteria.

**Committees: Housing Committee** representative Chris Collins shared information regarding the district's study on enrollment, which has been declining but is expected to level off in ten years. The district aims to maintain the highest quality education for all. No school closings are planned imminently. The Housing Committee has no voting power on such determinations, but is in place to make recommendations to the BOE which will ultimately make any necessary redistricting changes. **PTA Membership** is at 316 members. If we get 75% of our faculty to join by January 31, we will earn the State's Terrific Teacher Award. Thank you to Karisma salon which donated tonight's door raffle. Polish Nail Salon also donated a gift certificate for an upcoming reward raffle to thank PTA members for their support. **Arts and Education** announced it filled the second position moving forward. Thank you to Jenn Maringione and Kate Saar for volunteering. Upcoming A&E events include the Biscuit author coming in to the first grade and a school wide program by kindness and positive message artist/advocator Jared Campbell. In **Fundraising**, many orders were placed for the adorable ginger bread house kits which will be distributed after tonight's meeting. This year's **Boosterthon** fun run will take place again indoors on November 14. Children should wear white that day as it will be a glow run in the dark. **Beautification** thanked local landscaper Charles Giuliano for cleaning up the Outdoor Learning Lab. There are plans to possibly add wildlife to the pond. Ideas are welcomed by all. Students will plant bulbs in the spring. **SEPTA** needs our support – please join or purchase useful notepads. The speaker at its Nov. 18 meeting will address understanding behaviors and helpful techniques to use at home. **Box Tops:** Class parents should coordinate with teachers on picking up submissions. Please bring them in to the next PTA meeting. Do not use the app because school will get credit, but your child's class will not. Rather, send the codes in. Most tops per class earn a special prize. **Fifth Grade:** Letters were sent home regarding submitting the \$35 fee for the year. We have roughly received half of these. T-shirts were handed out on 11/1 and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade picture was taken. Talks are in to have the grade sing at an Islanders game in the spring. Darlings and Dates Dance Committee is looking for donations for basket raffles.

**Teacher representatives** Nicole Ehlinger and Christine Cole reported on current and upcoming studies across the grades including the students' excitement for the Thanksgiving holiday, the integration of this theme in lessons and the utilization by all of the school's iPads and Chromebooks for math studies and more. Art teacher Ms. Lindbom and the entire student body made a beautiful tree out of their fingerprints. It was framed and presented to the Board of Ed on 10/22 in appreciation for what they do with the quote: "Leaders lead so students can succeed". It can be seen on display at NY Avenue.

**Next meeting** is January 7, 2020 at 7 pm.

**Closing Time** 7:58 pm