**Covert PTA Meeting Minutes**

**September 12, 2022, 7:30 pm in-person & Zoom**

Darren Welcomes the PTA meeting announcing meetings can be offered both via live and zoom

**Call to Order**  Jen Macmahon has accepted the meetings from last meeting Michelle Provost and Ashley Presser accepted at 7:34 and Jen Macmahon Called the meeting to order at 7: 34.

Announcing The executive committee

Jenn Macmahon co-president

Trish Bender co-president

Michelle Provost 1st VP Fundraiser

Brian Macnamara 2nd VP

Christine Gleason 3rd VP– SEP Advisor

Ashley Presser VP treasurer

Genie Efstathiou – recording secretary

Alison Michaud – corresponding secretary

Erica Horowitz – delegates to PTA Council

Sandy Molinari – membership

Molly Drake & Melissa McCann - AIM

Maggie & John Ardolino Rep to council

Darren Raymar – Principal Rep

Meryl Goodman – Teacher representative

**Treasurers Report** Ashley Presser Reviewed the budget – 48,000 carried over from last year included the balance in the budget. When we questioned the revenue, we were conservative because we accounted for inflation and we increased the staff appreciation, thanksgiving, 5th grade and field day.

If there are no questions, we can vote all approved – Only one objection – passed

Audit Committee Ashley Presser Luciana Sousa and Michelle Gillespie

Went over everything that was correct sent it to PTA council.

Introduction of Superintendent GAVIN – he wanted to say hello and he sees smiling happy children. He sees a tremendous climate starting with Mr. Raymar leadership. He feels confident the kids are in good hands.

We are also joined by trustee Erica Messier – work with the board and admin is 5 goals

1-curriculum review cycle – establishing – this year emphasis on ELA

2-integrated co-teaching – strong instructional practices with 2 teachers.

Ms. Love did a presentation last board meeting on co-teaching

3-MULTI TIERED SUPPORT SERVICES (MTSS) Academic support AIS - how do we support struggling students to grow

4-K12 program for computer science, computer assisted design, and robotics.

5-facilities – priority needs. Needs vs Wants. What are needs, how do we fund? Talk to community and find out WANTS. Big want/need – field space.

Middle school has holes in the roof – expensive.

Feedback through climate surveys. Ex: school leadership asking parents teachers and students. Included will be the wants for facilities. For example, building cafeterias for the schools. Another want additional turf field at the middle school. Need to list the priorities. Priorities and less prioritized are not definites – just a survey.

Lucky to be here. Kids are great, teachers are REALLY good!

Ashley Presser Q – Curious about committee – parents involved in the committee? Or just in the climate survey. The climate survey from teachers they create and collect data

Fall presentation and Spring presentation for before and after.

Board and Community will have opportunity for feedback.

Budget time – facilities piece will decide what is and isn’t in the budget.

Jen Macmahon – Membership form passed around and sign in live and in chat

Membership – Sandy Molinari – 2 forms how to sign up and what the money goes to. Need to be a member to vote. Also need a member to get newsletter. This year the first class that gets 100% PTA membership the class gets a silly string party. Mr. Raymar will announce the standings. Now 138 members Marasco – 1st place 57%

2nd Turchin & Piccone – 56%

3rd DeRosa & Petrone– 54%

**Committee Reports**

**Erica Horowitz Directory** – Online directory has been updated log in to covert membership toolkit. Figure out a plan to get stragglers in. The form will go in next weeks newsletter

**Fundraising – Michelle Provost** Double good starts tomorrow 9 AM download app and enter code closes on the 17th at 9am. Popcorn ships out in 2 weeks. Best flavor jalapeno. Family Movie Night – Parmigiani “Official” Pizzeria of Covert. Choices are full size, craft size, meatball and chicken parm special pricing so we can make money. Form went out due next Friday. Set up a give back day in October. New vendor for covert gear. Confirmed today new stuff is in. Limited quantity of covert gear for sale at movie night. Order form coming out soon to order more. Square one art – portraits will look better because Sarah Heuser will direct them and use the theme – At Covert we are all superheroes. Trying to make in time for holidays. You cannot place orders and have them shipped to school. All orders done online and then they ship to home. Covert is participating in Pediatric Cancer 5 per lantern. Line the walkway with lanterns. Deadline is 9/16 @Michelle-Provost-8 Working on coffee & bagels

Q – Brian Macnamara – asked about the distribution of lanterns around neighborhood. All money goes to Mary Ruchaiski foundation regardless.

Michelle asked about a class on making fresh mozzarella maybe at the firehouse. Parmigiani has a mozzarella maker.

Ashley Presser – set up merchant account with chase so we have mobile credit card that goes straight into bank account.

Q – What is covert café? Selling coffee and muffins on front lawn of school – very well received. Also sponsored teachers. Covert Tumbler teacher gift.

**Christine Gleason – SEP** -First meeting 10/3 at 730 at MS after MS PTA meeting. All the SEP meetings are at every school. One at each school and a couple of zooms

**Molly Drake & Melissa McCann– AIM** – Arts in Motion – help schools to book assemblies 6 assemblies booked. First is 10/4 Astronomy Assembly – Darken the auditorium and makes a planetarium. Fan faves – working with Mr. Fig and 5th grade class. Cheryl Wells coming back

Mad Hot Ballroom is back – 4th & 5th graders ballroom dance possibly antibullying BMX

Brian Macnamara Q – which grades are you targeting? Trying to do the whole school except Marian Lazan only focus on 5th grade. E Feldman with 2nd grade writer workshop.

Thinking about ideas for Juneteenth – but December and June very challenging. Molly Drake in touch with actual Native American to bring in November. Update in October.

**Stephanie –** Birthday signs forms in newsletter Says 2 weeks but she can probably make it work sooner. Please turn on porch lights so we can find the house

Christine Gleason – flocking fundraiser starts in Spring.

**Brian Macnamara** – Bike Safety Day tomorrow collab with RVC rec and PD. 3rd -5th students. Assembly with Officer Stephanie if rain. WE will blast on Remind in AM

Jen Macmahon sent a remind and many people did not receive it – maybe not opted into text messages.

**Maggie and Tara – Movie night** 9/30 645 on the blacktop bring blankets and chairs 20 advance 25 at the door flyers on newsletter 20 responses selling candy water and glow fun. Letting kids voting on movie not many new movies – maybe a couple of new and a couple of old. Need money by the 24th NO EXCEPTIONS. Raindate following Friday 10/7.

**Annie (absent) – Ice cream Sales** – Volunteer sign up sheet in lobby. Sales during lunch. Annie will send out google form for dates to create a schedule. Keeping tickets – Sales begin 10/12.

**Heather Teta – Picture Day** – September 22 everyone needs to bring the form in regardless of payment method. If you order online please write your order number on the form. You can select a Covert background. 2 photographers on the stage for individual and 1 photographer outside taking class pictures. Club pictures are on make-up day 11/17. Specific request for collar or hair etc. – shoot Heather an email. Sign up sheet or Volunteers

**Book Fair – Whitnee Skobla & Kristen** – Volunteers like to bring extra money to help the kids that don’t have enough. (kids forget about tax) October 18-20. Teachers do wishlists on an index card. Please bring shopping bags.

Q – Does scholastic give us a deal on updating the school library? A – WE split the scholastic dollars between PTA and library.

**Sustainability** – Genie Efstathiou explained what the role is. and looking for a rep

**Molly Drake – 5th grade committee** theme is the last dance 2023 – Michael Jordan was a large undertaking, Molly, Melissa, Scott, Christine, Chrissy. Fun Friday dates picked. First fun Friday – outdoor games Thursday October 13, January 13, Friday March 10th Friday May 19th Broadway is picked out and booked March 8th seeing Aladdin. T-shirts coming – submit size permission slip for Aladdin is due September 30th. Field trip is booked for Bayville – since Adventureland was too busy. Bayville closed the whole Park 5/25 rain date 5/31. Graduation June 21, Party June 21. Friday Treats starting soon. Darren has an idea to have kids work with poshmark to raise money for Raymar’s Children’s Fund. And some omey can go to 5th grade.

Brian Q – Can you speak to Ashoken? Ashoken – overnight environmental trip 2 nights 3 days wed-fri. Kids set the table get rid of waste n a bunk. Good experience gives sense of independence Go with Watson Staff and principals go. 5th grade meeting after Back To school Night 8:10.

Q – If they have a 1:1 do they go? They may assign the teacher going to be the 1:1.

Volunteer Sign-up Sheet for Movie night went around –

**Heather Teta - Fund Run** 10/21 -raindate 10/28 schoolwide fundraiser run red white and blue group. Count and analyze to give prizes. Earn raffle tickets by money raised. Ids get their own fundraising page. Asking donations for toys and prizes. School donates activities with teachers, assistant principal for day, pie Mr. Raymar. WE will start collecting prizes now. We have a DJ and we need volunteers.

Q – Fund Run is confusing for people unfamiliar and people don’t understand the format.

WE will review materials and try to figure out ways to make it more clear. If you have questions leading up to an event PLEASE ASK.

**Presidents Report – Trish Bender**

Teachers appreciation we dropped off bagels and coffee welcme back 10/1 only TA members get emails and newsletter. Bike Safety weather permitting otherwise assembly for upper grades. If you have kids in multiple schools you must join all schools PTA. Whole family can join. SEP is Funded by PTAs of the district

Q – What is SEP?

A -Special Ed PTA – Umbrella PTA. Christine chair and attending to report back.

Join remind @covertPTA

Join facebook page

WE are your voice we are working for your kids.

**Teachers Report – Meryl Goodman**

Thank you for the bagels and coffee, I am collecting staff membership PTA. I will put the check and cash in PTA mailbox every Friday. Speaking to integrating co-teaching model. Had special ed background variety. Now being in classroom feels more like home. Working out kinks – takes a delicate balance. Darren selected his teams carefully. Feels more able to meet the children’s needs and builds a stronger connection.

Q – Classes without ICT do they have the same amount of support?

No we do not. K-2 always have an assistant or permanent sub. Older classes will have prem subs rotate.

Q – is that up to the teacher is they have someone helping?

K-2 always have. 3rd – half day Tas - 4th 5th Designated perm subs

**Principals Report Mr. Raymar**

Back to School 7-730 k-2 730-8 3-5 810 5th grade parents.

Covid not a concern but people still made to feel comfortable wearing masks

Central Office – Mr. Gavin very excited. Knows that Covert is different.

Summer Projects – auditorium sound system with a screen.

Goals are in conjunction with board. 2844 schools in NY Covert was in 95 last year.

Comparing our socioeconomics our scores are higher than average

Next week Covert is being honored by the National Tennis association

Clubs – Starting next week

After school Instructional Program AIP is being revamped

Mad Hot Ballroom started today teaches about cultures dancing and social interaction.

Raymar Children’s Fund - Help Needy Families

Fall Festival – October 27 345 – 545

Variety Show – March 27 SSMS – THEME – Superbowl halftime shows

Covert Comets – getting nixed. Re-assigning Captain Covert. Making appearance at Covert events.

Q – Parking in Drop off Lane

A – First couple of weeks hard with Kindergarten.

Q – Rainy Day Drop off?

A – Drop them to stay in auditorium

**Motion to adjourn** Darren Raymar and Meryl Goodman 9:32