

Lowell Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 10.11.16 @ 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Nov 15 @ 7:00 PM

Guest Speakers

Theresa McGuinness-Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

Talked about her experiences in teaching/administrative and guidance counseling for many years around the New Hampshire area. Also spoke about what the interim role is for the new superintendent. Has a committee to make school report cards more standard base.

Elizabeth Kaplan- Math and Science Elementary Curriculum Coordinator

Elizabeth Kaplan also came to speak about Destination Imagination and Math and Science nights here at the school. She talked about having a Math/Science night at all schools and looking into grant funding for the Cunniff and Lowell.

Destination Imagination is about kids designing and competing. Talked about having 1 new DI team here in Watertown to practice and compete. Would need one parent volunteer and one teacher with 6-7 kids per team. It's a big commitment and takes up a lot of your time. There's also a Rising Star program for grades K-2 but there is no competing.

FINANCES

Dues Update

\$2,919 in dues so far

Financial report

\$24,698.81 in checking

\$700.72 in savings

\$1,686 in teacher reimbursements

Successfully filed the non-profit postcard to retail status

Filed the annual report to the Mass Attorney Generals' Office

FUNDRAISERS

Box Tops Contest: Till Oct-21st

Please drop off box tops in the box in the main entrance and be sure to check for expired ones and also include your child's name and teacher.

Amazon Smile- percentage is given to the PTO on all orders placed. There is a link on the lowellpto.org homepage.

Stop and Shop Rewards:

This program was discussed in greater detail, Parents only need the first 3 letters of their last name and the 13 digit stop and shop reward number. There are step by step instructions on the website on how to register, it will take 30 seconds. Very easy. Click [here](#) for step by step instructions.

Color Run – Oct 2nd @ 11am

The event was hosted by all three elementary schools. Registrations were about half of last years. The weather could have been a contributing factor, sports and church related activities are also other factors. Discussed about possibly moving it sometime in September (Library run is in Sept).

Auction-March 3rd -11th.

This is the PTO's largest fundraiser. Held annually in March, there are a number of logistics that need to be worked out. Mary Lynds is the chair for the auction and is currently asking for people to help get this off the ground. By starting now the amount of work necessary will be minimal as the actual event grows near. The types of effort needed are to help collect donations online, by phone, or in person

Silver Graphics

Great program, raised a lot, will use again this year. Leanne to propose a date.

Game Night

This is possibly something that can be combined with Math Night. Otherwise will look at any available timeframes in the spring.

Watertown Savings Bank

Helen will call and get ballots. We did not do well with this program last year, a lot of organizations are vying for the funds.

EVENTS

Halloween Event

Event date is Oct. 28th. Looking for Volunteers to help set up, work the event and help clean up.

Book Fair Dates/Literacy Night

The book fair is the largest fundraiser we host for the library. All funds from the fair are given to the Lowell Library. Last year we had sales over \$12,000 with the school receiving over \$6700 to purchase books.

This year's book fair schedule will be similar to last years. We will be hosting a public sale in the Lowell gym on Sunday, Dec. 4th. Set up will be on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. The remainder of the week will be a Lowell only sale, hosted in the library. This event requires a lot of volunteers for short amounts of time. Given this fundraiser has a direct impact on the quality of the Lowell library we would love a lot of volunteers.

Literacy Night:

Literacy Night will be on Friday, December 9th. This is the last night of the book fair. There is a team of Lowell teachers that are working out the details for this event. The PTO will communicate the event and pay for it, but the majority of this will be run by the teaching team.

Spirit Days/ weeks for Sept – Dec

We voted to have a spirit week only. Date is TBD.

FIFTH GRADE DISCUSSION

5th Grade Fundraising Ideas

We voted on the following funding for the 2016/2017 Fifth Grade: The Fifth grade will collect from each parent a \$35 activity fee. In addition to the fifth grade will host a bake sale during the Nov. 8th election. The PTO will solicit volunteers to work the event and baked good donations. The funds raised by the activity fee and fundraiser will be used first to pay for their expenses and the PTO will then contribute up to and not to exceed \$50/child.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Classroom updates

Pre K-having fun learning Spanish

K-learning penmanship and how to write in lower case

2nd-no update

3rd- learning about electricity

4th-no update

5th-Learning a lot in Science this month

Principal update

The school participated in Wellness week. Ms. Donohue and MS Loguidice had many activities for the kids and Phil conducted daily exercises with the kids. He showed a video clip of the kids doing burpees in the hall.