

**William M. Strong PTO Meeting
September 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm**

Board Members Present: President - Lauren Marino, Secretary - Lisa Gelada, Treasurer - Steph Staszewski, VP Fundraising - Maritza Nadeau, VP Clubs & Activities - Leanne Kennedy, VP Communications - Kathleen Titsworth, Jenn Kocse - Co-President, ex-officio

Board Members Absent: Angelique Bilodeau, Co-President, ex officio

Principal: Melissa Barbuto

Attendees: Stacy Miller, Danielle Gorski, Amy Cogswell, Aimee Mair, Kelly Flood, Kristen Pisano, Donna Jedynak, Karen Gallucci, Carrie Brunalli, Monica Drury, Laura Prior, Karin Carey, Alex Kowalchuk, Emily Lennon, Lisa Serenson, Leslie Petro, Cathy DiFronzo, Ashley DellaBitta, Meredith Fenwick, Jodi Clavette

1. Welcome: Introduction of Board Members & Attendees

2. Approval of May Minutes

Submitted and reported by Leanne Kennedy. Jenn Kocse moved to approve the minutes; Laura Prior seconded. Minutes approved without objection.

3. Principal Report

Ms. Barbuto thanked the PTO for the ice cream social. Great start to this year. This year's theme is "The Best Year Yet". All teachers will be holding morning meeting with their classes this year.

4. Kindergarten Teachers

Mrs. Lennon and Mrs. Kowalchuk reported that is has been a great transition for the children. Communication is going well through the folders and the morning meetings are going well. The first field trip is scheduled for October 18th to Indian Rock. Popsicles on the playground was held a few days before school started. 30+ kids attended and it went well.

5. Officers' Report

Open house went well. Teachers enjoyed the back-to-school lunch on the first day. PTO sponsored a "Tea & Tissues" for the kindergarten parents on the first day of school. They enjoyed coffee, tea, and snacks. Ice cream social was well attended by 270+ guests. Kelly Flood opened up the Book Fair. Many books were purchased, along with participation in two guessing games, with the winners earning \$10 book fair gift cards. The school earned \$497 in Scholastic Dollars from the Spring Book Fair. Those dollars were divided among the teacher and they each received \$25 gift certificate to use at the Fall Book Fair. Strong School apparel order for September will be placed on Thursday. The next order will be placed in January. PTO is seeking volunteers to help facilitate the karate program, which begins in January. If interested, please contact a board member.

6. Treasurer's Report

Steph Staszewski reported that we made a profit of \$194 from the ice cream social. There is \$162 dollars from the book fair because that is change. We ordered spirit wear so we have -\$179. We received \$250 from an ESPN employee, from their volunteer program. We have \$740 in membership and paid \$515 for spirit sticks.

Karen Gallucci moved to approve the budget. Jenn Kocse seconded. Budget approved without objection.

7. Committee Reports

A. Back-to-school dance

- a. Maritza Nadeau reported that the back-to-school dance will be on 9/22. We will have a DJ, photo booth, and sign-up genius for volunteers.

B. Apple Harvest Parade

- a. Maritza Nadeau reported that the Apple Harvest parade will be on Oct. 1st, with a rain date of Oct. 8th. Forms will be going home for walking/riding on float.

C. Splash

- a. This fundraiser continues; we have had two families participate so far. The cost is \$20 to have dolphins put on lawn.

D. Fundraisers

- a. **Yankee Candle** - Maritza Nadeau stated that the school will receive 40% back from each order. Online orders will charge tax and shipping. There will be a link on Facebook to access online orders. Orders are due by 9/22.
- b. **Lewis Farms Pies** - Maritza Nadeau stated that we will be having a Lewis Farms Pie fundraiser, which will begin at the end of October. The pies will be delivered, frozen, here in time for Thanksgiving.
- c. **Flower Fundraiser** - A flower fundraiser will possibly be offered throughout the year.

E. Membership

- a. 70 families have signed up. There is a contest that will end Oct. 13th. The class with the most family membership will earn a \$50 Target gift card. Any teacher who signs up for membership will be entered to win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

F. Cultural Arts

- a. The PTO asked Ms. Barbuto to have a teacher liaison. Mrs. Butler has volunteered to help and will collaborate with the PTO on the programs and events to bring to the school. The Cultural Arts budget is \$3200.

G. Clubs

- a. Drama Club will be open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Emails will be sent next week, stating the name of the show and audition info. Parent meeting will be on 9/26. Auditions will be on Oct. 3rd and 4th. We may need to limit the size of drama club depending on how many audition. We will be using the same behavior policy and chime. The PTO is also looking for teacher volunteers. Please note that elementary students cannot move sets behind the stage.
- b. Yoga / Zumba We are looking to do this programs. Each will be a five-week program. We will need parent volunteers.

8. Communications

Kathleen Titsworth reported that the bulletin board across from the Nurse's office has been updated. Facebook page is being used to update families. Southingtonschools.org has been revamped; we hope to get approval to update PTO page. PTO hopes to start monthly emails to teachers.

9. New Business

Leanne Kennedy reported that a meeting was held on 9/13 to discuss room parents and responsibilities.

10. Announcements

We are teaming up with Hatton School PTO for a family-friendly glow games and after dark golf tournament on Oct. 14th. Info will be sent regarding needed committee and volunteers.

Meeting adjourned