

**Pelham PTO Meeting Agenda
September 12, 2017**

Attendance: Aline Gubrium, Olivia Frazier, Vince Hohreiter, Scott Rhodes, Brad Arndt, Marie Lauderdale, Kate Paradis, Lisa Desjarlais, Jenny Franz, Brenda Barlow, Nicole Black, Joe Black, Sarah Hall, Matt Wollaver

Treasurer's Report

From Heather: Bank checks and Genevieve's local goods fundraising catalog in the PTO mailbox. (In case you don't know- there is a PTO cubby/mailbox in the office- should be checked regularly--Aline check mailbox in office regularly).

There is \$11,263.91 in the bank. Doesn't include check for \$499 for office desk. **ACTION ITEM:** **Kristin** will write a check to WB Mason for the desk

From Heather: I have changed the username/password for the online banking and added those to the PTO passwords doc in the PTO gmail acct. Kristin- we should get you on the PTO bank acct as soon as convenient for you. And I will get you the file box full of receipts/info soon.

Update on Budget Situation: School committee came to agreement with town how they'll pay for the shortfall. Town will take 35% out of reserves and will vote at Town Meeting to slightly increase taxes. These funds will hopefully cover the deficit, but this is a short term solution. Idea: Get PTOs in this area to take a lobby trip to Boston to speak up about the charter situation and how it affected us. Lisa: Suggests that we connect with PGO in Amherst to do something like this. The smaller the school system is, the more you pay. Amherst made a strong argument about how charter school was leaving many students out.

There is a group coming together to focus on innovative small school structures. Could apply for a grant to do something innovative and shift the entire curriculum around this. One that we might consider focuses on technology. Could shift toward a STEM model. Scott: Could think about Expeditionary Model.

Events

Curriculum Night: September 19th; 6:15-7:30pm. Need to arrange childcare for the event--need to get forms out to parents so they can sign up ASAP. **ACTION ITEM: Brenda B. will check in with Lennie about this.** Need 3-4 afterschool staff to do childcare for the event, 6-7:45

Book Fair: From Maia Porter: The book fair is set to take place from Tuesday, September 19th through Thursday the 21st. We're keeping it to just 3 days like last year, which did just as well financially as the 4-day fairs of yore, and wasn't as overwhelming to staff & parents.

According to Lisa Desjarlais, Curriculum Night is scheduled for Tuesday 9/19, so Maia will plan to have the fair open then, and will work with UMass to get student volunteers to help cover that night. She will put out a call for parent volunteers for daytime shifts through the Pelham Press, and if any volunteers come your way, please send them my way. Meanwhile, please let her know if we have any questions or need anything from her, and otherwise she'll be in touch again as the date approaches.

Harvest Potluck & Ice Cream Social: Confirmed for September 29th, 5:45-7pm; Heather Edwards made a doc for this event with info on it. **ACTION ITEM: Joe Black** will check with Cook Farms about getting ice cream donated--2 big round tubs. Credit for donation will be given in the school newsletter. **Olivia** will check with Heather to see if her mom will still donate toppings. **Olivia wil check shed** to see what is there for the ice cream social (i.e. bowls, spoons, lemonade, drink tubs). Set up by 5:00. Then 2, 45-minute shifts to serve ice cream. Joe and Nicole will do opposite ice cream serving shifts. Marie and Sarah will come early to set up, as well as Nicole and Joe. Lisa D. will be here as well to help out. Brenda B. and Kate P. have volunteered to help clean up. New smoothie bike for the events as well.

Trunk or Treat: Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, October 29th. Andrea may have more up-to-date docs about the event (i.e. how many pizzas did we order for the event in the past?). Non Pelham families welcome. **ACTION ITEM: Jenny Franz** will set up an evite to RSVP to the Trunk or Treat. **ACTION ITEM: Aline**, for games: Reach out to room reps to reach out to rest of class for volunteers to lead games. Donut eating, guess the number of candies in the jar, police table, haunted house is also inside. Dance party outside with smoke machine (Matt will set this up, David, Nate and Joe will help set up). Drinks: cider and water set up **ACTION ITEM: Scott:** Will check with Glazed Donut about donating donuts.

Fundraisers

Bertucci's: September 14: All day

Antonio's in Belchertown: November 13: The B-town Antonio's will give us 15% off and will allow us to do any raffle or anything else we want on this date, but we need someone to be on site from 5-9 continuously. I think they will give 15% of the whole night's proceeds to the school, but someone has to be on site in order to land this. Volunteers: 5-7pm: Brad, 7-9pm: Marie

Box Tops: Nicole Black offered to collect box tops for the school and sort them for submission. Crystal is interested in helping out with this as well. Kate is also willing to help out with this collection.

Other fundraisers: Could do a talent show or cookie swap performance.

PJ movie night in January or February. Parents pay for childcare, have kids watch movie. Volunteer: Kate will help coordinate, Matt will coordinate the technical aspects. Could do it on a Friday or Saturday, 5:30 - 8

Pelham sweatshirts for kids and adults: Mark them up a bit to make some money or could run a booster to cover the sweatshirts. **ACTION ITEM: Jenny** will look into a booster campaign. Competition for a “Be a Buddy Not a Bully” logo for the sweatshirt

Gift card purchases: School gets \$5 from each card. Gift Card Mall: **ACTION ITEM: Jenny** will look into this.

Room Parents

Still need a kindergarten room parent. Heather Edwards will serve if no one else steps up. Nicole Black will do the kindergarten, Kate will do first grade room parent on her own

ACTION ITEM: Aline, correct this on the blog.

Diversity and Inclusion

Actively welcoming new and newly returning families during school events (i.e. Back to School Picnic, Harvest Potluck, etc.)

Increasing diversity of active members of the PTO: Posting signs at the events about the PTO.

Other Items

School recycling and compost efforts: Box for unwanted food, recycling containers, composting. Educate kids about where the stuff will go. Pelham is now on the Amherst Transfer station route for recycling. Reaching out to other parents to stand next to the containers and educate the kids about the different types of trash while it’s still a new system. Volunteers: Brad will help out. Scott contact name at Amherst Transfer Station to provide bins, Matt will check in with him to ask for these.

School directory: Jenny is checking with Sarah Hayes about their helping out with the school directory.

Additional new tire swing: Requested from many parents and some teachers, could be a focus for the fundraising. **ACTION ITEM: Scott** will check on how much this would cost.

ACTION ITEM: Kristin to add the Florence Savings Bank fundraiser slip to the PTO Facebook page.