

Pelham PTO Meeting Notes
1-11-18

IN ATTENDANCE: Aline, Olivia, Lisa, Matt, Nicole, Jenny, Margaret, Brad, Vince

TREASURER'S REPORT \$8225.21 current balance; one person will be on the bank account, so Heather will come off the account, Nicole will stay on as the new treasurer.

MEETING ITEMS

1. **Building an even stronger PTO team**--mutual support and good communication. Discussion of group dynamics. Google group conversations continued. Open communication about how to move forward, including new folks in the picture. Developing a set of norms for the meeting (similar to what the staff do at their meetings). Starting the meeting with celebrations and/or make sure everyone at the beginning says something (i.e. "news"). **February meeting:** Developing a strategic plan for the year, which includes big funding/project ideas (6-7pm, last 15 minutes action items; note "brief report" for additional agenda items). Survey with staff about needs/wants/desires.

Homework: PTO members come with suggested norms

2. **Student/staff bathroom signs** - "All Gender" signs on bathroom doors linked to need for gender/sexuality education at Pelham Elementary School. Idea for possible LGBTQ and gender inclusivity program to offer at Pelham: <http://www.welcomingschools.org> (human rights campaign offers programs for free, look into this) (Tim Sheehan, curriculum director, ARPS). Will research programs on sexuality education, especially those that include an intersectional perspective. Subcommittee on gender/sexuality education: Aline, Nicole
3. **Publicizing PTO efforts** - Publicizing PTO efforts. PR subcommittee: Brad will lead this effort. 1) Internal: Publicizing to our own community the stuff that the Pelham PTO does. 2) External: Publicizing our work as it highlights the strength of a small public school like Pelham (can be used strategically to address the incursion of charter schools).
4. **Lowe's grant for Spring 2018:** Hold off on the Lowe's grant in light of potential CPC monies available (see item 8).
5. **December Parents' Night Out:** Event was successful, with at 34 children attending. In future, if advertised as a fundraiser we could charge more.
6. **Spring Fair:** Run event in the spring? Chair for the event? **ACTION ITEM Aline:** Reach out to class reps, who would be willing to assist with the event. Usually takes place in late April/early May. If we do have this event, make sure to note that this is a cash-only

event. Pare down number of activities at the Spring Fair. Live music for the event?
Roger Tinncknell to provide live music/entertainment.

7. **5K event in the fall** for a fundraiser? Subcommittee: Brad, Olivia, Vince. Looking for sponsors, date, planning committee. Add to next meeting agenda. **ACTION ITEM Olivia:** Find out what other runs are going on in the local area in 2018 (potentially hold the event in end of October, early November 2018).
8. **Pelham Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Subcommittee:** Just forming. They are looking for people to join to talk about creating a plan for the school grounds. The project funding was well supported by the Community Preservation Committee. Ideas from the PTO on needs or overall vision for the grounds? CPC subcommittee contact person Eric Castenson (ericcastenson@gmail.com). Proposal needs to come into CPC to fund stuff, then town meeting votes on this--twice per year (once in May, once in November). Could propose a big concept for the grounds for about \$100K. Final proposal due by March 10th. Good to come to CPC meeting with ideas for meeting next Thursday. Subcommittee for school grounds: Matt, Vince, bring in a town facilities person and a select person.
9. **Green Team status and/or Recycling program** - Green Team could come in to help. Need to take the next step to get it going. **ACTION ITEM Matt** will reach out to folks from Green Team to come out to the school for an assessment.
10. **Direct Donations to Pelham School:** Paypal account; creating a link to give to the Pelham PTO. **ACTION ITEM Olivia** will shape language for creating direct appeal to donate to Pelham PTO.
11. **PTO Storage:** We now have cupboards for PTO storage in the Teachers' Room in the school. Also have the shed with new combo lock.
12. **Outdoor maintenance challenge:** We need to have a plan for outside maintenance, should not be parents or teachers/staff.
13. **Family Fun Night event:** Matt is heading this subcommittee. Saturday, March 3rd, 5-7:30pm. **ACTION ITEM Aline** will email Dan/Andrea at SPHHS about student volunteers for the event.
14. **Box Tops Competition:** Usually another competition in February 1 - March 2. **ACTION ITEM Aline** will share announcement about the box tops competition on blog. **Lisa** will share announcement about Box Tops Competition via the Pelham newsletter. Announcement will also be shared on FB site.
15. **Calendar Raffle** Table discussion until February meeting.

Commented [1]: ACTION ITEM Olivia: Find out what other runs are going on in the local area (end of October, early November). +ofrazierdise@gmail.com
Assigned to Olivia Frazier

Commented [2]: +mattwolaver@gmail.com
Assigned to Matthew Wolaver

Commented [3]: +ofrazierdise@gmail.com
Assigned to Olivia Frazier

Commented [4]: +desjarlais@arps.org
Assigned to Lisa Desjarlais

16. **Next dining out fundraiser?** Texas Roadhouse, Thursday March 8th, 5 - close.

17. **Principal's comments:** February agenda: Pelham 275th Anniversary celebration--how can Pelham School be a part of it?

Combine town fall harvest potluck with the school harvest potluck, involving one of the state reps?

African-American read-in day--looking for a presenter. Could the PTO cover half of the event? Yes, we will. Friday, February 8th.

School committee meeting, superintendent recommended that the preschool close at the end of the year.