

Miscoe Hill PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/01/2023

Location: Miscoe Library

Meeting Called by: Victoria

Time: 6:40pm

Attendance: Victoria Wilkinson, Jessica Tilley, Kelly Lucier, Joe Bonapace, Melissa Morse, Robin Benoit, Lydsey Nickerson, Diane Duncan, Laura Devenney, Myah Stone

Call to Order

1. Approved 10/04/2023 general meeting minutes by email.

Opening Reports

- President, Victoria Wilkinson
- Treasurer, Kelly Lucier
 - We have a current balance of \$8376.
 - We made \$915 on snack sales at the 5th/6th Halloween event, so the social as a whole made over \$600. This is impressive considering it was not meant to be a fundraiser.
 - The PTO sponsored 9 partial and 3 full scholarships for Nature's Classroom, totalling \$3183 from our Good Neighbor fund.
 - We are consistently making \$200 per month on the textile bins.
 - The PTO has earned about \$2400 from our Money for Miscoe campaign so far. The envelopes were probably not worth it, only 6-7 have come in with cash or checks.
 - We earned \$125 from Hopedale Pizza CNO.
- Principal, Robin Benoit
 - See below for library and social updates.

Old Business:

- Halloween social recap (Victoria)
 - The social was a success, if a little chaotic.
 - The socials chair is already thinking about a winter social. An off site social like the ice skating last year is another option, but the group thinks that sticking to just 2 in school socials makes the most sense.
 - Future snack sales cannot include Skittles, gum, Blow Pops, and other sticky items. These items were stuck in surfaces and difficult for the custodians to remove. We thanked the custodians with small gifts.

- Leftover concession items can be used for future staff appreciation.
- Scholastic book fair (Kelly)
 - The book fair is going from now through next Wednesday. Anyone interested in volunteering should reach out to the PTO.
 - Funds earned will be used to purchase books for the classrooms.
 - We use our Good Neighbor fund to purchase books for students who are otherwise unable.
- Fundraising (Joe)
 - Summary of fundraising committee meeting
 - We can host a community event that features cornhole at Kiwanis. The Upton recreation department can help and share games and materials. This would require a separate committee to organize.
 - A Miscoe Hill giving tree would allow for us to have a visual display to recognize donors and express gratitude. Joe has a lot of ideas to create something really beautiful in the school. The main idea is a wooden tree with individual leaves to acknowledge individual and corporate donors. We can reach out to businesses to purchase sponsorships with permanent leaves. The PTO would need to work with district administration for approval.
 - Joe is working with Walmart to add Miscoe PTO to their charitable giving programs. The PTO is in the process of getting all of the required forms in order.
 - RaiseRight gift cards (Melissa)
 - Families can purchase gift cards from RaiseRight and the PTO earns a percentage of the total.
 - For the month of November, the PTO will offer free shipping on gift card orders. Gift cards can be picked up at school beginning on December 6.
 - Flyers with all of the details will be sent out via social media, email, and through the Miscoe newsletter.
- Cultural Arts (Jess)
 - Jess is working on securing dates for Sheryl Faye presentations for 5th and 8th grades.
 - The 7th grade has reached out requesting something to do with African studies. Jess has a lead and has started doing research.
 - The 6th grade has not responded with their request yet, but they are working on it.
- School sign (Jess)

- Nipmuc has recently put in a digital sign, and Memorial is working on doing the same. Estimates are over \$10,000 plus the cost of electrical installation.
- Diane had a conversation with Dr. Cohen regarding a new or updated sign. A full replacement is probably cost prohibitive, but there are still improvements that would make a nice difference. BVT might be a good resource for this, and We Care Miscoe can help coordinate.

New Business:

- 8th grade t-shirts (Victoria)
 - The 8th grade teachers have reached out with a request for the PTO to help with their grade level t-shirts.
 - We have budgeted \$1000 for 8th grade needs including CA, field trips, etc., and board members voted to approve up to \$300 from this amount. This can be revisited later in the year if more expenses arise.
 - The PTO can additionally sponsor t-shirts for students in need from our Good Neighbor Fund.
- Library (Melissa)
 - Jay Byer and Ken Choiniere from the district office are already starting the discussion on how to proceed with the facility updates. There are some steps that need to be accomplished before any major moves can be made. For example, we need to take the books off of the shelves before they can be moved and the wall can be refinished. Projects like moving shelves around and painting tend to take place over vacation weeks and times when students are not present.
 - We have PTO and We Care Miscoe volunteers ready to help move and organize books when needed.
 - Small improvements like removing the chairs from the top of the book shelves and replacing light bulbs have already been done.
 - Dr. Benoit plans on asking the staff what they would like to see and how they would use the space. For example, would creating space for a full class be appreciated and utilized?
 - Dr. Cohen and Dr. Benoit had a discussion surrounding how to choose new materials for the library collection.
- Teacher requests, if any (Victoria)
 - None at present
- Open to members or guests to share an idea or make a motion

Announcements

- Remember to check for updates on our Facebook Page (Miscoe Hill PTO - Current), Twitter (@miscoepto), Instagram (#miscoehillpto), and our website (www.MiscoePTO.org).
- Sign up to receive communications by sending us an email: PTOMiscoeHill@gmail.com.
- Our next general meeting will be December 6 at 6:30pm in the Miscoe Library.

Adjournment