

Miscoe Hill PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: 03/06/2024

Location: Miscoe Room 224

Meeting Called by: Victoria

Time: 6:34pm

Attendance: Melissa Morse, Jessica Tilley, Meg Halfpenny, Robin Benoit

Call to Order

1. Approved 02/07/2023 general meeting minutes by email.

Opening Reports

- President, Jess Tilley for Victoria Wilkinson
 - There is a need for a 3rd textile bin. Parents have complained that they are full when they come to drop off items. The school cannot afford to lose another parking space, so it's a question of finding a location that would work for everyone. Robin can try to find a solution but needs to know the space requirements. It might also help if the pick up days are adjusted to be a little better spaced (Monday/Thursday instead of Tuesday/Thursday).
- Treasurer, Jess Tilley for Kelly Lucier
 - The PTO has a current balance of \$8519. After projected expenses, Kelly anticipates a surplus of about \$3500.
 - Scott Nash (author/illustrator) gave a presentation to the 6th grade. Once we have financial details, we will pay the invoice (\$1300). Robin will follow up.
- Principal, Robin Benoit
 - PD day was productive yesterday. Teachers worked vertically to think about progression through grade levels. The afternoon sessions were based on teacher choice, and there were some outside presenters as well. The day as a whole was well received.
 - Miscoe is starting to gear up for MCAS testing this spring. Dates have been provided in weekly parent newsletters. Robin has a goal of reducing stress for students to help alleviate test taking anxiety.
 - There will be a Cradles to Crayons clothing drive towards the end of March to support Project 351.
 - Spring concerts and performances are coming up. The stage has been redone, and it is looking great.

Old Business:

- Library update (Melissa)
 - The new layout has been decided on. Progress is being made to move the shelves into their eventual spots.
 - The shelves cannot not be moved as a whole and need to be broken down to puzzle piece together for the new layout, so it's a long and messy process.
 - The nonfiction section was boxed up over break.
 - Robin sent out a survey with 2 questions for teachers - what books would they recommend for the library and for their own classrooms. Additionally, she spoke about it at yesterday's faculty meeting. Hopefully enough responses come in to get a good sense of how both district and PTO funds can be spent.
 - The nonfiction section has many books that are either out of date or not age appropriate. This is the area most in need of new materials.
 - Robin has upcoming meetings with Andrew from the Mendon library and Amy from Nipmuc media center to get their points of view.
 - The painting still needs to be finished, but that can be a weekend project.
 - Robin has set a goal of having the shelves in place prior to April vacation.
 - Meg and Melissa are willing to volunteer to help weed materials, reshelve books, and take an inventory when needed.

New Business:

- Budget spending
 - The PTO would like to make sure that teachers and staff know that they can make requests for us to fund. We have a projected surplus this year and are very happy to help.
 - Victoria suggested that a PTO representative attend an upcoming staff meeting to discuss how we can help support. Robin has offered to put us on the agenda for the April 25 or May 16th meeting. One of us can follow up when it gets closer.
 - Robin thinks a Google form or worksheet would be helpful for staff to focus requests. Robin can include it in her weekly messages to staff to encourage submissions. This might be more straightforward than the current system. Melissa will look into creating something.
- Frisbee dogs (Jess)

- The PTO would like to offer hosting a Frisbee Dogs presentation as a fun event for students. It could be a nice activity following MCAS testing to help kids unwind.
- Robin is potentially open to the idea but would need more details. For example, could the program be hosted indoors? There isn't necessarily an outdoor space that can fit all 650 students in a way that they could all see, but it's possible in the lower gym. This is also a good question in case of bad weather. We could consider holding the performance twice to reduce the total number of students.
- Teacher requests, if any (Victoria)
 - No new requests have come in.
- 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 (@miscoeptto), 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 April 3 at 6:30pm. Due to ongoing library renovation, check our social media ahead of the meeting to confirm location.

Adjournment