

Miscoe Hill PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/07/2024

Location: Miscoe Library

Meeting Called by: Victoria

Time: 6:36pm

Attendance: Victoria Wilkinson, Kelly Lucier, Melissa Morse, Jessica Tilley, Deb Lane, Meg Halfpenny, Robin Benoit

Call to Order

1. Approved 12/06/2023 general meeting minutes by email.

Opening Reports

- President, Victoria Wilkinson
 - According to Mrs. Allen, the 8th graders raised \$2000 for the purpose of giving back to the community. They sponsor activities and items for students who might not otherwise be able to participate. It also serves to provide a lesson on giving to the students who fundraise. Vicky let Mrs. Allen know that if there are ever needs beyond what they've raised, she should come to the PTO. Our Good Neighbor Fund can always be used to support students.
- Treasurer, Kelly Lucier
 - We currently have \$8022 in the bank.
 - We have plenty to fund teacher requests going forward. We will have expenses for upcoming staff appreciation, cultural arts, support for field trips, socials, etc. Even after these anticipated expenses, we should have about \$7500.
 - We are still waiting to hear back from some of our activities- Urban Air, Rainers, Papa Gino's, etc.
 - We've made about \$3500 from our "Money for Miscoe" campaign. There does not seem to be a need for a major spring fundraiser given our bank balance and parent's willingness to give without the need to sell things, enter raffles, etc. If something comes up, we can just do another push for Money for Miscoe.
- Principal, Robin Benoit
 - Inspired Learning Day was yesterday and went well overall. Feedback from students will help shape the spring event.
 - Miscoe had some teachers participate in the Wizards basketball event.

- Today was the 100th school day.
- Mr. Cuomo has returned from parental leave.
- Major projects coming up include a new stage floor (ready for the spring performances), bathroom upgrades, and continued work on the library.
- The staff has been appreciative of the PTO's donation of sanitizing wipes, tissues, and dry erase markers.

Old Business:

- Fundraising (Vicky for Joe)
 - Superbowl squares - we have just 6 squares left to sell.
 - Giving tree
 - The idea is to build an attractive display of a tree. Families or corporate donors can sponsor a leaf and their name will be included on the tree.
 - There are several outstanding questions/issues including the appropriateness of a financial representation of corporate donors on the school walls and the sustainability of maintenance for a long period of time.
 - The project would require approval from Maureen Cohen and Jay Byer at the district level.
- Upcoming socials (Kelly)
 - Brenda has graciously donated her time to organize these events, thank you!
 - The PTO will cancel the March date for Roller Kingdom because they had been unresponsive and they did not save our date. Instead, we can offer another ice skating event. The ice complex has March 2 at 6pm available. It would cost \$600 for 2 hours. We can ask for a "suggested donation" for skate rentals, but all are welcome and the PTO will pay for skate rentals as needed to keep it a free event. We can ask the ice complex if they would allow the PTO to sell snacks.
 - The Providence Bruins game is coming up on Friday. We've sold 10 tickets.
- Library update (Melissa)
 - Two We Care Miscoe volunteers (interior designers Stacy and Michelle) have donated their time to create 2 floor plans that involve moving around and repurposing the existing furniture. Neither one was just right, but the designers are working on updates. Included in the new plan would be a space large enough for a class to comfortably meet as well as a separate small group space.

- Meg and Melissa have started going through the collection to weed out items that are out of date, in poor condition, not age appropriate, etc.
- The walls will be painted over February break.
- It is not in the budget to have the room staffed for the next school year. There will be no librarian in the foreseeable future. Priorities are currently elsewhere in getting new grade level teachers.
 - There would also be a question of how a media specialist position would function and how that instruction would fit into the current class structure.
- The current plan is to focus on getting the space into shape, then work on updating the collection.
- Adding new titles has to be a school-side process. There are strict policies for adding and removing materials.
 - The PTO has offered to spend our remaining Scholastic Dollars budget (\$577) on new books for the library. If the PTO would like to devise a list of titles, we can send it to Robin for approval.
 - There are also district funds to spend on new materials in each year's budget. This year's funds will not roll over to the next school year, so it is time sensitive in nature. Robin will work with the teachers to come up with a list of titles that they would like to see.

New Business:

- Request for help creating a PTO "what we do" video (Victoria)
 - It would be great to feature some of our accomplishments to share with the community. The goal is to keep parents informed about how we spend their dollars and give staff ideas of how we can help.
- Spring fest (Victoria)
 - The PTO would like to host an event for families at Kiwanis beach with the help of the Upton Department of Recreation. This would be a free event for families, the only expenses would be food or participation in PTO fundraisers such as a corn hole tournament.
 - We would like to propose a date of May 18, but the beach will not be open yet. This is easier in a way because we don't have to worry about kids in the water, but it also means the bathrooms won't be open.
 - Food can be provided by food trucks if they are available. If we are unable to book enough vendors, we can use the existing grills at Kiwanis.
 - The rec department has many games and activities that we can use. Vicky has started to look into vendors for bounce houses, obstacle courses, face painters, caricature artists, and more.

- The PTO is insured.
- We need to carefully consider what types of activities to offer that would appeal to a broad age range. We should poll students and families to see what they would like to see. Kelly will create a Survey Monkey.
- Ideally, the event would appeal to the entire family, with a special focus on middle school aged children. We could consider requiring mixed age cornhole teams to encourage the generations to mix and have fun together. We could also consider bringing in a special show or program, such as the frisbee dogs, that would appeal to a wide age group.
- Teacher requests, if any (Victoria)
 - Marabeth H. has requested \$100 for the STAR program to start up a “Sunshine Cart” for staff. Members vote to approve.
 - Staff should freely ask the PTO to help support their classroom libraries. Historically, the PTO has offered our book fair funds for this purpose but we do not get a lot of response.
 - Anna Reposa has requested bringing in Scott Nash as a presenter from Scholastic Books on March 4th. This would be a program for the entire 6th grade, and the cost is \$1500 plus travel expenses. We have budgeted \$1000 per grade, but some grades have come in under budget. We need more info on the travel expenses before we are able to commit.
- Staff appreciation
 - The staff appreciation committee has been hard at work preparing small tokens of gratitude for our school counselors this week.
 - School resource officer appreciation is next week. The committee has prepared a goodie basket for Officer Sinko as well.
 - The lunch staff appreciation is coming up too. Deb is proposing creating name tags for them. Thanks to Jennifer M for making them!
- 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 March 6 at 6:30pm in the Miscoe Library.

Adjournment