***PTA MINUTES***

***General Membership Meeting***

***Wednesday October 28, 2020, via Zoom***

*In attendance*

Board members present: Courtney Connors, President; Steve Curtis, Vice President; Elizabeth Williams, Vice President; Jess Van Denend, VP Membership; Misha Serfillippi, VP Fundraising; Cara McDonough, Secretary, Jonathan Farrar, Treasurer.

Meeting called to order by Courtney Connors, 7:03 pm.

*Call for a motion to accept minutes of last PTA meeting and communication of correspondence* - Cara McDonough. Seconded by Steve Curtis. Motion passed unanimously.

*Principal’s report – Principal Hornreich*

* Mr. Hornreich reported that, now in the 7th week, things are going as smoothly as they possibly can. Teachers are working very hard to ensure students at home and in school are getting the instruction they need.
* On November 4, students/cohorts will be switching locations for a third time, ensuring students get equal time in classroom and alternative locations.

*Health & Welfare –* no report

*Treasurer's report: 2020-2021 amended budget and vote – Jon Farrar*

* Explained the need for the PTA to create an amended 2020-2021 budget due to the pandemic and limited opportunities at the school.
* PTA priorities survey showed that school community members have a strong interest in supporting teachers this year, as well as supporting outdoor learning/programming.
* PTA planning to spend some of its funds on teacher grants and outdoor programming; outdoor committee is also looking to other funding sources.
* Motion to pass budget as it stands, Jon Farrar; second, Misha Serfillippi. Motion passed unanimously.

*Reports of standing committees*

**Membership - Jess VanDenend**

* PTA has had a very successful beginning of year in terms of membership.
* Our PTA is joining with other Hamden PTAs to form a city-wide PTA council, so members are automatically part of that group, as well. The group’s goal is to advocate for every child in Hamden.
* Asked members to suggest any ideas/projects that can move beyond Spring Glen and include all of Hamden.

**Fundraising - Misha Serfillippi**

* Mask fundraiser is still underway. Ordered a second order of masks to fulfill need.
* Donated masks to teachers and staff to show support.
* Hoping to make $1700 in sales to break even on expenses.

**Diversity & Inclusion - Sofia Fertuzinhos**

* Committee now has a good number of members.
* The committee has been working hard on a newsletter that they want to send out to the school community in November, focusing on Thanksgiving. They are considering other future activities.

**Outdoor Committee – Steve Curtis & Elizabeth Williams**

* Hosted a very successful “Growing Together While Apart” event. Families came to the school for the Saturday event to paint rocks that will be scatted in Mother Nature’s Classroom.
* They are working with teachers to discuss how the upcoming garden can collaboratively be used by the school.
* Completed a grant application to Annie’s Organics to help fund the garden.
* Hoping to do a stay-at-school fieldtrip with an educator from Common Ground for hybrid and distance learners alike.
* Courtney Connors: the PTA sent a letter to BOE and town departments, thanking them for helping to clean up Mother Nature’s Classroom after the recent storm.

**Communications – Cara McDonough & Steve Curtis**

* Communications committee has created an evolving FAQ document that is on the PTA website; encouraged families to keep sending questions to be answered, including distance learning families.
* Working on next webinar to be focused on mental/emotional health for families during the pandemic. Hoping to create a panel of experts and have participants pre-submit questions. Steve Curtis (in chat) pointed out that webinar could be shared with Hamden-wide PTA so that others can participate.
* Thanked volunteers Kara Breen and Leigh Castaldo for help with social media pages and website. Encouraged members to send any messages they’d like PTA to get out through social media or in general.

*Old business – none*

*New Business*

**Book fair**

* Elizabeth Williams mentioned the PTA is planning for a virtual Scholastic book fair and also of a readathon this winter, combining some of the book projects the school has done in the past; asked for help from membership. Members Tori Untiet and Kerri Sancomb offered to help.

**“Spread the Warmth” coat and winter attire drive and “Spread the Joy” holiday gift drive**

* Courtney Connors announced drives planned by the PTA to take place this fall/winter. She has connected with school social worker Mark Marrandino who will help PTA assess the need in the school and beyond.
* Discussion of other ways to give and donate through both the drive and the book fair. Member Bonnie Pepper suggested surveying school community and asking what makes people comfortable when expressing need. Are they comfortable going to the PTA? Or the school social worker? Or are both difficult? Can we make the situation more anonymous?

*Good of the order - no comments*

*Announcement of next meeting* – Weds. Nov.18th via zoom

*Request motion to adjourn- Courtney Connors; seconded Misha Serfillippi ; meeting adjourned 8:01 pm.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted, 10/28/ 20 by Cara McDonough, Secretary*