***PTA MINUTES***

***General Membership Meeting***

***Wednesday November 18, 2020, via Zoom***

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

Absent: Jess VanDenend

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

* Welcome – Courtney Connors
* PTA was happy that so many parents responded to the PTA’s survey on the proposed return to distance learning, took their feedback to the Hamden BOE.
* Call for a motion to accept minutes of last PTA meeting and communication of correspondence - *Cara McDonough, seconded by Misha Serfillippi. Motion passed unanimously.*
* Principal’s report
* Mr. Hornreich reported on the BOE’s tough decision to return to a full distance learning model until mid-January, based largely on not having enough staff on a regular basis.
* He said that distance learning would include both synchronous and asynchronous learning, and that teachers have been working hard on best-method models throughout the year.
* Thanked PTA for gift of appreciation of Best Video coffee gift cards for teachers.
* Mark Marrandino, school social worker, is looking to connect with families in need.
* Health & Welfare
* Treasurer's report – Jon Farrar
* Not much to report or money that has will be spent until springtime.
* Will be looking at teacher grants and needed items in light of distance learning.
* Reports of standing committees
	+ Membership - Jess VanDenend - *We have 183 members and counting. Recently Jess attended the Hamden-wide PTA meeting and will keep attending meetings. Our PTA members are automatically included in that group.*
	+ Fundraising - Misha Serfillippi – *Misha reported on our ongoing mask fundraiser.*
	+ Diversity & Inclusion - Sofia Fertuzinhos – *The D&I Committee has issued their first newsletter, and is working on a second newsletter for December. The committee is also creating a Spotify playlist that the school community can contribute to with favorite songs from their culture/background.*
	+ Outdoor Committee - *Elizabeth Williams and Steve Curtis – There has been a lot of enthusiasm about a potential outdoor assembly in Mother Nature’s Classroom. The committee is also continuing grant applications for the school garden and has asked Lowe’s about donations.*
	+ Communications - Cara McDonough and Steve Curtis – *Webinar on emotional/mental health for school community to be held on evening of December 10. Thanks to Kara Lee and Leigh Castaldo for helping out with website and social media.*
	+ 5K - Leigh Castaldo*-*
* Old business
* New Business:
* Our book fair will be 100 percent virtual and held November 10 to December 3. A portion of the proceeds will go to our school.
* Remote learning: the PTA would like families to reach out with concerns and questions.
* Good of the order
* Will there be a virtual singalong this year?

Announcement of next meeting – *Weds. December 16 via Zoom*

Request motion to adjourn - *Jon Farrar, seconded by Misha Serfillippi.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Cara McDonough, Secretary*