

MERRIMAC PTO MEETING MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBER MEETING ON 05/15/2018	
5.15.2018	6:30pm – 7:30pm
Meeting called by	Sarah Gilmore - President
Type of meeting	General Member Meeting
Note taker	Sara Vendshus
Attendees	Sarah Gilmore, Nancy Lombart, Sara Vendshus, Jon Bartholomew, Cheryl Burkinshaw, Russell Marino, Megan Marlowe, Dawn Ackerman, LeeAnne Davis, Tom Flaherty
ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:	
Conducting Meeting:	Sarah Gilmore
GUEST SPEAKER DISCUSSING NEW SCHOOL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Flaherty – From Newburyport, children attended Pentucket. Ideas for us getting a new school... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The success of building a new school will primarily depend on the elementary school parents. Parents are the largest voting block. ○ Ideally, each town should have a committee for the schools. We need to be organized, and have a district committee overseeing the town committees. ○ The biggest challenge is it will be costly. AND all 3 towns (Groveland, Merrimac, & West Newbury) have to vote for it. ○ At the last school committee meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The West Newbury Conservation Commission vetoed the request to fill in the retention pond in the design plan for the new building. This decision will be appealed, and we'll know in 3 months the results. ▪ MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Association) asked us to look again at the High School only option since building both a new Middle School AND High School is more expensive. The estimated cost is around \$140 Million dollars. ▪ The high school could potentially be built behind the current High School building, meaning no phasing of students compared to a renovation that would undoubtedly interrupt students daily education. ▪ SO... total of 6 options for the "NEW SCHOOL(s)": <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Behind HS as a High School only 2. Behind HS as a Middle and High School (2 stories tall) 3. Behind HS as a Middle and High School (3 stories tall) 4. In filled retention pond as a High School only 5. In filled retention pond as a Middle & High School (2 stories tall) 6. In filled retention pond as a Middle & High School (3 stories tall). ○ MOMENTUM at the right time is going to be critical. If this is going to happen, we need to have everyone possible in the "know" AND on board with the plans. Originally we wanted a vote in November, but now it's looking like April. ○ PTO agreed to begin getting the word out about starting a Merrimac School Building Committee to start communicating the details of plans and ongoing efforts.

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<p>TREASURER REPORT:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000 in the bank Currently, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minus \$4,000 in checks outstanding ○ Minus previously discussed appropriations of about \$13,000 ○ Leaves a remaining amount of \$6,000 in our account. • Chromebook Appropriation update: Ordering 24 touch screen chromebooks for Sweetsir, and 24 non-touch screens for Donaghue. Costs will be closer to \$15,000 than \$13,000. Cost will be offset by not getting a smartboard, and purchasing a less expensive projector instead – per kindergarten teachers input. For future reference, Principal Marino commented he would ideally like to see a 1:1 ratio of chromebooks to students.
<p>REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner Night Out – <i>Stefanie DeRosa is the Chairperson</i>. Chili’s didn’t earn the minimum, so no funds were raised. • Mothers Day Flowers – Brienne Walsh was the chairperson – went well. • Teacher Thank You Cards – Teachers were happy to receive the kind words from the PTO. Perhaps next year it would be best to take more of an all inclusive approach and provide all staff with donut, muffins, and a giant thank you card from the PTO. • PTO Scholarships – Went well. \$1,000 Award was determined, and we could have a member of PTO go to the school ceremony to award it if anyone would like to. Also we may want to slightly change the wording next year to say, “Someone who ATTENDS Merrimac Schools and lives in Merrimac and is going to college next year”.
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner Night Out - 5/22 dinner out will be in Newburyport at Panera. 6/12 dinner will be at Amesbury Flatbread. \$1.50 donation for each small pizza, \$2.50 donation for each large pizza • Paint Night IS NOW Art Night – Brienne is working out plans and details with Ms. Dupre • Arithmatically – Happening 5/23 We’re borrowing a hot dog steamer & Jon is bringing the hot dogs. • Movie Night – Brienne is chairperson – Scheduled for 6/22. Discussed potential for changing date since last day of school may have family conflicts. Perhaps coordinate with selectman to do in July? • Ice Cream Social – Nancy Lomabrt - connecting with school to confirm date 6/15 and Carters Ice Cream • 5k – Cancelled due to no volunteers willing to help or chair the event. • School Supply Kits – In progress. Deadline for orders is May 31st. • “Merrimac Goes Back To School” (MGBTS) event – Potentially Wed 8/29 or Thu 8/30. First day of school is Sept 4th. Nancy to help coordinate when teachers will be available to visit classrooms. • Grad Shirts – Proof is all set. Sarah getting sizes in this week L & XL. They should arrive in 2 weeks. • Bookstore – Doing great. • Theatre Program – Leeanne Davis would like PTO to help with 40 kids \$60/kid in the fall to produce something like “Charlotte’s Web”. Brook Snow is leading the show. Will be Sept-Oct, could charge for performance \$5.00

NEXT MEETING IS 2ND WED OF THE MONTH, JUNE 13TH @ 6:30PM