

# MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2019 - 6:30PM AT: FREDERICK N. SWEETSIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: PTO PRESIDENT - NANCY LOMBART  
 MEETING MINUTES TAKEN BY: SARA VENDSHUS

| MERRIMAC PTO MEMBER MEETING |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE       | Cheryl Burkinshaw, Pam Burke, Allyson Dwyer, Jessica Bishopp, Jon Bartholomew, Meghan Marlowe, Marilyn Judson, Erin Raine, Kristin Toth, Rebekah Abate, Taryn Fish, Rachel White, Meaghen Ivone, Julie Walton, Kate Byrne, Glennys Bistany, Nancy Lombart, Rachel Judkins, Sharon Ferrant, Sara Vendshus  |
| TREASURY REPORT             | <p>Financial Status Update by Jon Bartholomew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget review:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently have just over \$10,200 in bank account (\$8,300 after checks go through)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will have \$1k PTO scholarship we will need to pay out sometime this year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussed field trips &amp; cultural arts appropriations:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We have a list of proposed field trips from teachers adds up to \$16k, in the past PTO only provides \$1k per grade.</li> <li>○ For this year, Plymouth Plantation is already paid out.</li> <li>○ If PTO wants to cover the field trips, we have funds to do it. We didn't spend all the money left from Boosterthon last year.</li> <li>○ Last year out of boosterthon funds we spent \$6500 on chrome books (24 chrome books). The year prior we spent \$13,800 bought 48 chrome books. So last year we only bought 24 so we could have some money raised from Boosterthon left over to decide how we want to use the funds for this school year.</li> <li>○ Chromebooks Information Update: Currently we have 80 at Sweetsir, Donaghue has 184. (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> currently are 1:1 ratio). Ms. Dembro, and Ms. Byrne commented not something we necessarily "need" more of.</li> <li>○ Costs for field trips has been going up... this is the first year they have been given to us ahead of time.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Option 1: cultural arts has always been \$1k, should we increase it to \$1500?<br/>OR</li> <li>▪ Option 2: should we increase the amount we are willing to pay the full amount teachers are asking for?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• MOTION to raise cultural arts annually to \$1500 each grade (motion made by Nancy Lombart).<br/>VOTE PASSED</li> </ul> |
| REVIEW PREVIOUS EVENTS:     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Movie Night Event – Estimated 200 people were there. Parents commented, worth doing again. Funds came from "Cultural Arts Council". Glennys is in process of seeking grants.</li> <li>• Merrimac Goes Back to School – Meghan Marlowe: Was a success. Looking for a chairperson for next year.</li> <li>• Spirit Wear – Cheryl Burkinshaw: Made \$120 in September, will run again at the end of October thru November.</li> <li>• Yankee Candle – Nancy Lombart: Orders were due today. We're at about \$5,500 in profit. Online orders are still open through January. Orders will come in around Thanksgiving.</li> </ul>  |

U P C O M I N G

**EVENTS (Meghan):**

- Harvest Festival 10/18 @ 6:00pm – Meghan Marlowe & Sara Vendshus – We need volunteers, we do have some middle school help, but NEED more adult volunteers. Sign up is online through sign-up genius.
- Santa’s Breakfast – Marilyn Judson 12/7 or 12/14, will confirm date soon. Would like to decorate stockings for soldiers as a service project. Maybe have kids performing.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Cedar dale Celebration Plans – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee - ? Nancy look into who’s planning. Nancy will contact Ms. Scafidi.

**FUNDRAISERS (Nancy):**

- Box Tops – Trish Horgan – New way to submit box tops, please contribute!
- Business Donations – Stefanie DeRosa
  - We have a few donated, but if you know anyone who is interested in donating items to raise money, please let us know. Could use some gift cards, or activity / food purchases. Will accept anything!

**ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS (Glennys):**

- Glennys is in communications with other schools to find out what programs they run, and finding out what the structure is like. Goal is to begin a few new programs by the beginning of 2020.
- BOKS – Nancy Lombart: Started this Thursday. 22 kids signed up (about 4 from before school program).
- Bookstore – Rachel White: Went really well. Will need to order more for both schools.
- Ski Club – Cheryl Burkinshaw: Will need volunteers in a few months. Sign up now online via our website until October 25<sup>th</sup> Costs includes the sign-up fee.
- Robotics – Nancy Lombart: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade are in fall session. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade are in the spring session. Sign-ups are available now.
- Yearbook Photos – Seeking Chairperson. We have someone to organize the yearbook for us. We need more pictures to be taken of groups of kids, not just individuals. We will post a link to an upload photo website.

MISCELLANEOUS  
PTO BUSINESS:

- **Faculty Comments** by Mr. Conway: Information related to curriculum changes:
  - Wants to make sure we are all updated on curriculum changes.
  - More details will go out via email this week.
  - Five years ago, all schools in Pentucket decided how to fund specialized program IB or STEAM. Our school selected the IB program. Funding was a grant, so eventually the funds from MASS to run the IB program ran out.
  - In last 10 years, over 25% reduction in student enrollment. School choice student allowance ended, and therefore a loss of funds due to loss of students.
  - When State funds ended, and we were hit with a \$700k gap in budget. Had to cut teachers, rearrange specialists (music, art, etc.). IB school cost was a \$10k expense just for keeping the title of having an IB school.
  - District set a goal to organize all Pentucket elementary schools to be on the same page with curriculum. Some schools were teaching at slightly different curriculum levels. We needed to get everyone on the same page for literacy and math curriculum to be in alignment with the state standards that are required.
  - MCAS is a state standards and state standardized assessment. Our schools were in the 21<sup>st</sup> percentile (on the bottom side) of measurements for the MCAS. Administrators wanted to fix that going forward.
  - Now educational experiences are in alignment to be similar by the time they get to middle school. Since the changes in curriculum, we’ve already seen improvement.

- **Calendaring** – Set dates and select chairpersons for events:
  - Sara Vendshus to contact Ms. Dupre for art dates
  - Marilyn Judson to chair Santa's Breakfast & Sweetheart Dance
  - Ms. Scafidi to continue the Christmas floral sale.
  - Theatre will begin in January and perform a few months later -need a Chairperson.
  - Cheryl to chair Teachers are Souper. Will be held on 2/13 (since 2/14 is a half day).
  - Lisa Manni will co-chair family paint night with Ms. Dupre.
  - Didn't have time to discuss remaining school year events.
- **We need volunteers.** Please check out our website for more info.

PTO MEETINGS ARE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM @ SWEETSIR SCHOOL

Next Meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> week due to No School the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)