

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19, 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	Meghan Marlowe, Glennys Bistany, Pam Burke, Jon Bartholomew, Ken Kelley, Nancy Lombart, Marice Little, Jessica Bishopp, Lisa Manni, Theresa Nunes, Rachel White, Allyson Dwyer, Cherie Gryglik, Sara Vendshus
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	<p>Introduction by Mr. Ken Kelley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy to be here. Happy to be part of Merrimac. Nice change of pace. • Have set some goals as a PTO and am ready to move forward.
TREASURY REPORT	<p>Financial Status Update by Jon Bartholomew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$19,200 currently in bank account. • Yankee Candle brought in \$6,300 • A few checks are still outstanding... \$1000 scholarship will eventually need to be paid early 2020. Is paid directly to the college. • THANK YOU to Jon Bartholomew for the several years of PTO service. He has resigned this month, and we thank him for volunteering his time and energy. • Pam Burke has been voted in by the board to take over the treasurer position moving forward.
APPROPRIATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently have \$1600 of appropriations requested. Including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$200 - Amy Fletcher – Classroom table ○ \$310 - Julie Doherty – Classroom table ○ \$220 - Ms. Dupre & Ms. Dixon – Music Rugs & Art related books ○ \$340 – Ms. Curtis-Pare – Lacrosse Goals ○ \$400-\$500 - Student council leadership (at Donaghue) – Requested new recess equipment, jump-ropes, basketballs, etc. May need a basketball pump at Sweetsir. Could use a parent volunteer to help student council coordinate new P.E. equipment. Maybe we could have a flyer made by student council and a P.E. donation box...? • Other monetary items that pay for themselves by student enrollment include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Robotics ○ Theatre ○ BOKS • Side notes regarding appropriations to keep in mind: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boosterthon money won't come in until May (something to consider). ○ Chromebooks update – Mr. Kelley looked into 5th & 6th grade has a good supply, but 3rd & 4th could probably use more. It's a benefit for kids to have these as they do a good amount of writing. • Motion to approve all appropriations... ALL APPROVED.
REVIEW PREVIOUS EVENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Festival – Meghan Marlowe – Cost \$2100, Profit of over \$4000 • Spirit wear Sale – Cheryl Burkinshaw – Made \$340 • Square 1 Art Sale – Drew Dupre – Tiles are going in together to make a mural. No info yet on funds raised for school.

<p style="text-align: center;">U P C O M I N G</p>	<p>EVENTS (Meghan):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed 2019-2020 Calendar • Breakfast with Santa – Happening 12/14 – Need a chairperson to coordinate details including food, decorating, Santa photos, stockings to donate, music concert, and volunteers. Will also hold a holiday shop, Nancy to coordinate the sale. Facebook poll shows more interest in holding during school day. Could potentially have shop open Friday 12/13 at Sweetsir (day before Santa’s Breakfast) then move it Saturday afternoon to Donaghue for sale on Monday 12/16. Nancy will publish sign up genius. Meghan will find a chairperson. • 6th Grade Cedar dale Celebration Plans – Researching with the 6th grade teachers how entry fee will be paid. Are there any opportunities for PTO assist with fundraisers to help offset some of these costs so the parents/kids. Need to find another way to fund tickets & bus for event. High school did a shredding drive, pay an amount per box or weight. Could ask student council what their thoughts are for fundraising ideas. • Polar Express Movie night – Meghan Marlowe to chair. Decorate a cookie, wear pajamas, give them a bell at the end, free to students. 12/20 Friday – Cost is estimated to be \$1000 total budget. Meghan will contact local bakers rack, might be able to bake the cookies and then bells, movie rights. Can utilize event-brite for RSVP’s– Lisa Manni will help.
	<p>ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenagers Documentary showing – Glennys Bistany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is a 45-minute movie and a panel Q&A at the end about screen time for kids. ○ \$650 cost includes movie and publicity. Grant has been applied for and hoping to show this in January. Would be free to students, PTO / grant would help offset costs. ○ Could include it as a regional multi-school event. • PTO is looking for in school programs like Storytelling tales, curious creatures, & other guests we could invite to the school. PTO board is working with Mr. Kelley to try making it happen. • BOKS – Nancy Lombart – going well, kids are excited and having fun. • Spanish program after school program – Potentially coming soon, Glennys is working on plans. • Bookstore – Rachel White – just bought more books with points, it’s going well. • Theatre – Glennys Bistany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amanda Collins is a para and has stepped up to run the theatre program and running the show “Wizard of Oz” ○ Cost will be about \$70/student. ○ Practices Mondays & Wednesdays after school January 6th until March 20th & 21st Performances are March 20th & 21st. ○ Working on connections with NECCO and Mr. Whitney White for assistance and support during production for acting workshops, set designing and lighting, as well as borrowing props and sets. ○ Will be looking for sponsors from businesses in the community. ○ Will have HS students and parents of students to help as volunteers. Hoping to have a few parent leads Mondays or Wednesdays. Maybe for half or full hour each. • Music – Eric Pierce from Cats&Jammers possible volunteer to host week long workshops. • Online Safety Discussion with special guest Katie Greer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$4,000 / day cost. ○ She’s an online specialist who explains how to be safe online for adolescents. ○ Would happen with students during the school day, with parent discussion at night. ○ Mr. Kelley to look into seeing if the district could help pay for / offset the costs of having her come talk to us. • Potentially could have an art club, or craft club, or yoga classes after school....? Glennys looking into parent/teacher leads. • Yearbook Photos – Cara Murphy • Teacher Appreciation Ideas – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It would be nice during teacher appreciation week if every day teachers got something small from PTO each day. ○ Could send out a survey to find out what teachers like / want. ○ Mr. Kelley suggested the Wednesday before thanksgiving giving coffee and donuts to the teachers. Or the day after parent teacher conferences. ○ Perhaps each grade could put out a breakfast or lunch once a month. ○ Maybe in the summer PTO could stock up the freezer with ice cream or popsicles and tell teachers to go grab it when they want to. • Glennys is putting together a survey to give to parents to find out how PTO is doing. How we can do better, and make sure we are communicating well with parents to be accommodating to their schedules. Goal is trying to get more people involved.
<p>MISCELLANEOUS PTO BUSINESS:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be helpful to send out a link to offer up donating money directly to the PTO. • Mr. Kelley comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are lots of new things happening. It’s a process to transition. ○ Aware that change can be challenging, and communication is really important. Sent out the “S’more” newsletter to make sure parents, teachers, and students are all on the same page. ○ At elementary level we want kids to be focused on getting high levels of reading and math. We have new literacy initiatives that are being put out and goal is to have the curriculum to focus on that as the goals. ○ Kids coming from STEM and IB both brought in similar strengths and weaknesses to middle school We are using foundations and Eureka between all 3 towns. ○ State is doing away with alternative learning days for the 2020-2021 school year. • School system is at odds with the recycling program. Municipalities are having trouble recycling for the school due to high expense. Not a school issue, but a city issue.
<p>PTO MEETINGS ARE THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM @ SWEETSIR SCHOOL Next Meeting is December 10th</p>	