



## William Winsor PTO Meeting Minutes November 9, 2016

7:00 pm:

### **Welcome/Introduction of Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent of Schools** (Tory Trainor)

Ms. Morisseau presented a Powerpoint presentation: Smithfield Public Schools: Learning & Teaching Overview for Families, 2016-2017. She discussed such topics as: preparing our kids for the future, curriculum development, and assessments. Ms. Morisseau explained the differences between the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Curriculum development and provided some background and an overview of the PARCC tests. Principal Ackerman noted that if any parents wanted to discuss further, he is available to meet and review. Ms. Morisseau left copies of her Powerpoint for any parents who would like a copy.

### **Principal's Report** (*Principal Brian Ackerman*)

Principal Ackerman reviewed some of the recent school activities:

- **First Autumnfest** was a big success. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders did a great job supporting the younger students in all the activities and games. Thanks to the parents who came into school to help out.
- The school raised more than \$400 from the **Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Pink & White Day**. He noted the importance of making our children aware of social issues and how they can do something about them.
- **Plymouth Plantation Field Trip**: the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders had a great trip to Plymouth to learn about early English settlers and how they lived.
- **Chrome Book Distribution Night** was a lot of fun, with students and their families gearing up for the start of Chrome Book usage in the classroom.
- **Faculty Refrigerator**: The teachers and staff appreciate the donation of a refrigerator from Mrs. Sluter to replace the broken one in the teacher's lounge.

### **Vice President's Report** (*Andrea Shepard*)

An overview of recent and upcoming events and activities:

- **Five Below Fundraiser**: will commence the day after Thanksgiving; a portion (10% of sales) of everything Winsor Friends and Family spend will be donated back to the PTO.
- **Box Tops for Education**: \$600 was raised from the contest and Mrs. Grace's class won the pizza party! Another 4,000 (\$400) box tops were collected to add to this number and we will continue to collect them throughout the school year.
- **Breakfast with Santa**: Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> is confirmed; Laura's Diner is donating the breakfast and students will be writing letters to the Troops.
- **Holiday Shop**: December 7 and 9: the vendor delivers merchandise the week before; most items are under \$5; wish list will be provided to the kids; and volunteers are needed.
- **Teacher Appreciation**: planning is in the works.
- **Movie Night Recap**: 180 tickets were sold and we collected 110 items for the Thanksgiving Food Drive!
- **Trunk or Treat**: everyone agreed it was a great event at a great location!
- **Girls Choice Event**: Confirmed for February 24 at Alpine Country Club.
- **Boys Choice Event**: Looking at some time in March.
- **Winsor School Garden**: we are meeting with URI Master Gardeners Program as we have applied for a mentorship to assist with planning and implementation of the school garden. We have several parents who have signed up for the committee.
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- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yankee Candle Fundraiser:** Wraps up in next few days and orders will be delivered in time for the Christmas holiday.

#### **Secretary's Report** (*Mary Kate Harrington*)

Remember to "like" posts on Facebook so they appear on your feed. If anyone is not receiving the Late Breaking News (LBN) each week, please contact the school to ensure your contact information is up-to-date.

#### **Treasurer's Report** (*Jenna Howard*)

Money is in from the walk-a-thon; we raised \$5,200 and gift cards for top earners will be sent home soon. The Treasurer is working with event committee chairs on deposits for upcoming events.

**Meeting Minutes:** October PTO Meeting: minutes were approved from the October meeting.

#### **Raffle**

#### **PTO vs PTA**

A question was raised about the upcoming vote as to whether to remain a PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) or change to a PTA (Parent Teacher Association). One attendee asked about the timing of the vote. Board members clarified that while we had originally planned to vote on the issue at the November meeting, the PTO Board had decided during Executive Meeting to delay the vote until the December PTO meeting. This way, we can allow for additional time for PTO members to educate themselves about the differences between the two. The Board decided to create informational materials to share with families and also clarify the voting itself. Ballots will be sent home and all dues-paying Board members can vote (one vote per household).

The question as to whether we should seek PTA status is one that previous PTO Boards have also pursued, to ensure we are offering the best to our children and the school. It is important that we regularly assess the work we do and tap into all opportunities that may benefit the school. The three other elementary schools in Smithfield are all structured as PTAs, so it made sense for us to consider this as an option for us. Allowing additional time for families to review the pros and cons of each will help ensure that people carefully consider each option prior to voting. By also allowing families who may not be able to attend the next meeting to vote via sealed ballot, will remove any barriers families may have due to scheduling conflicts.

The PTO Board members reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring a transparent and fair process for

8:30 pm:

#### **Adjourn**

#### **In attendance:**

**PTO Board Members:** Tory Trainor, President; Andrea Shepard, Vice President; Principal Brian Ackerman; Jenna Howard, Treasurer; Mary Kate Harrington, Secretary

Deb Bettencourt  
Michael Cardin  
Jill Ceprano  
Kim Domenico  
Monica Driscoll  
Jess Lakeway

Kristi Morin  
Amy Reed  
Laura-Field Swallow  
Nancy Toubia  
Joseph Trudel  
Tracey Trudel