**September 7, 2016 Dale Street PTO Meeting Minutes**

* **Introductions:**
  + Principal Steve Grenham, 5th Grade PTO Co - President Andrea Morello, 4th Grade PTO Co-President Kiersten Cole, Vice President Cathi Thomas, Treasurer Erin Fontana, Secretary Patti Kelly, Community Members: Michelle Barrette, Jennifer Keating and Melissa Ross
* **Principal Update:**
  + Start of 2016/2017 school year:
    - Principal Steve Grenham reported a great start to the school year at Dale Street School. The new bus routes have been a challenge but Mr. Grenham has seen improvement during the second week of school.
    - Drop off begins at 8:10am (no supervision prior to 8:10am) between Dale Street School and the Pfaff Center. Students can play outside in the playground during times of good weather. If inclement weather, 4th grade students congregate in the cafeteria and 5th grade students congregate in the gym.
    - The first bell is at 8:20am and students line up. The second bell/tardy bell is at 8:25am. Students arriving after 8:25am should report to the main office.
  + LMC – Library Media Center:
    - Principal Steve Grenham reports the new LMC is up and running due to funds from the MCPE. Kerry Cowell is the new Library/Media Specialist. The space has been redone and looks great. The LMC received 5 foot book shelves from the high school and are much more user friendly than the previous 8 foot shelves.
    - All classrooms are attending mandatory information sessions to learn about the LMC.
    - Each classroom will have 2 periods in a 2 week schedule with Mrs. Cowell. Math, science and other topics will be held in the LMC or in the classroom. Please provide feedback to Mr. Grenham accordingly.
    - In the future, the LMC may be used for after school classes or intramurals.
  + School curriculum:
    - Readers Workshop is now uniform across all classrooms. This includes independent reading time and guided reading for those that need it.
  + Social/Emotional Issues:
    - Dale St. School now has a full time Guidance Counselor and full time School Psychologist.
  + Core Values:
    - Mr. Grenham has been working with the staff to come up with 3-4 values that adults/staff will model for students. These values will apply to behavior in the classroom, playground, bus, etc.
  + Busses and extended school day:
    - Mr. Grenham reports the extension of the school day has gone well. Students receive an additional 5 minutes to specials (Art. Music and PE) as well as 5 minutes to Lunch/Recess.
    - The extended day also allows more time for teachers to work individually with students.
  + Summer Reading Program:
    - Mr. Grenham will announce to the students during the assembly on Friday, September 9, 2016 that each classroom will receive a new book. The 4th grade classrooms will receive An A for Miss Keller and the 5th grade classrooms will receive Wish.
  + Student Recognition:
    - The Positive Referral Program is used by classroom teachers and specialists to nominate students who go “above and beyond” expected behavior.
    - Teachers can also nominate students for an unsung hero award.
    - There was a discussion about how some students received multiple awards last year. Mr. Grenham will be mindful of this issue during the coming school year.
* **Co-President’s Update:**
  + Picnic cancellation:
    - The back to school picnic was cancelled due to inclement weather.
    - The Dale Street PTO Board will discuss the objective of the picnic for the next school year.
    - $275 was allocated to the picnic and will be used to give students a back to school gift in lieu of the picnic.
    - Andrea Morello researched ideas and the Board agreed to purchase rubber bracelets that say “Be Dale Be Proud” and will be in the Medfield school colors of blue and white. All students and teachers will receive a bracelet in a date TBD.
  + Fundraising Ideas:
    - SchoolKids program:
      * The back to school supply kits was a successful fundraiser and made around $1000.
      * Due to an error on the order form, the pencil kits were missing from the 4th grade kits.
      * Next year, the fundraiser will be held again and the deadline will be towards the end of the 2016/2017 school year.
      * Medfield schools will receive a 10% discount next year.
    - Mixed Bag and Yankee Candle Fundraiser:
      * Erin Fontana is the chair of the Mixed Bag Fundraiser. Siobhan Dennehy is the chair for the Yankee Candle fundraiser.
      * The Mixed Bag Fundraiser will be sent home with the Yankee Candle Fundraiser catalog at the end of September.
      * Parents will have the option to write a tax deductible check if they are not interested in purchasing products but still want to donate to the Dale St. PTO.
    - Spring Fundraiser Ideas/Activities:
      * Dale Street Rockathon
      * Dale Street Craft Fair
      * March Madness
      * Spring fundraiser activities will be finalized at the upcoming Dale St. PTO meetings.
* **Vice President’s Report:**
  + Dale Street has a list of approximately 26 volunteers for the Dale St PTO sponsored events this year. However, more volunteers are needed, especially for the Hospitality Committee which hosts the teacher luncheons.
  + Kids Night Out: November 4th is 4th grade and November 18th is 5th grade. A DJ is reserved for both events.
* **Treasurer’s Update:**
  + Dale Street PTO funded the Summer Reading Program ($258.85). As stated above, each classroom received a book to be shared by all.
  + The budgeted amount ($275) for the Back to School picnic (canceled) will be used to purchase the bracelets for students and teachers.
* **MCPE Update:**
  + Last year, the MCPE funded approximately $117,000 in academic enrichment grants to the Medfield schools.
  + The Fall Ball will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2016. The online auction will open soon.
  + Trivia Night is October 21, 2016 at the American Legion in Medfield.
  + Michael Thomson will speak at Medfield High School on October 26, 2016. Please pre-register for this event.
* *Next Dale Street PTO Meeting is Wednesday, November 2, 2016.*