

Dale Street PTO Meeting

March 9, 2021

Welcome and Introductions: Steve Grenham (Principal), Maureen Dodge (5th grade Co-President), Karen Seitz (4th grade Co-President), Paula Pacheco (Vice President) Lindsay Rogers (co-Treasurer), Jill Werner (Secretary),

3rd Dale Street PTO meeting of the 2020-21 school year, held virtually via Zoom call.

Principal Update: Steve Grenham

- Mr. Grenham starts the meeting by saying how thankful he is for the support from parents this year.

-Mr. Grenham is awaiting final answers around what reopening will look like. Dr. Marsden has a series of meetings with staff, the Board of Health, the teachers' union, and the school committee to iron out details related to the return. Mr. Grenham has started reopening discussions with his staff but will await final word before rolling out specific plans. He is hopeful they will know by the end of the week.

-There will be a celebration on the 1st day back. Ms. MacDonnell, Mrs. Cole, and Ms. Plympton are helping come up with ideas to create a warm welcome for the students and staff.

-Statewide, MCAS has been delayed until late May/early June. The tech team at Dale Street had made preparations for the test as originally scheduled. Now it is being pushed back.

-When asked to share his views on the MCAS being held this year, Mr. Grenham understands that it puts extra pressure on the teachers near the year's end, but it is not meant to be a high stake/high stress test for the students. He recognizes that the test could provide valuable data that would be helpful with planning future learning maps, especially helpful in a year when students across the state were experiencing school in different ways than in the past.

-Mr. Grenham is wanting to show his appreciation and celebrate his teachers this upcoming Friday. It is the year anniversary of the last time everyone was in school together. There will be gift card raffle giveaways and a coffee service on site.

-There will be an elementary webinar around placement on March 30th. Principals will explain the placement process and about how parents can write a letter to share their feedback.

MCPE Update: Karen Seitz

-Karen shared about an exciting grant that MCPE awarded for the purchase of HUE document cameras at both Dale and Wheelock.

-Steve thanks Karyn Healy, the MCPE rep that supports Dale. She was very helpful in facilitating getting the HUE document cameras purchased for all the teachers. They have been useful for teaching both in-person and over Zoom.

-The next MCPE fundraising event will be a Date Night In that will include a virtual Medfield history talk as well as a takeout dinner from Basils here in town. It will be held April 7th at 6PM.

-MCPE is also planning a virtual baking class over April

-Lastly, MCPE is looking for new applicants as 6 members will be rolling off the current board.

Treasurer update: Lindsay Rogers

-Lindsay shared the updated financial reports with the group. Recent spending included door decoration materials, money towards a virtual storytelling event that was brought in as special programming, and money from our hospitality budget to support professional development lunch and other snack and drink stations to thank and encourage our teachers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grant: Mr. Grenham shared a grant for items that will support the return to school. He requested funds for 400 weather-resistant sitting mats that will be used by the students during outdoor lunches and mask breaks. In addition, Dale will need 40 additional plexiglass desk dividers to cover the desks that will be brought to Dale to support the return of students for in-person learning. The board approved this funding which came to around \$3,000

Volunteer Needs: Volunteers will be needed in preparation for the return to in-school learning. Mr. Grenham shared that Dale would need parent volunteers to move desks and chairs within the school, to affix plexiglass desk dividers onto the desks, and to help collect Chrome books being returned to the school.

Tournament of Books- Paula Pacheco worked with Dale librarian, Marina Sweeney, to get volunteers to do virtual read alouds of the books in the Tournament of the Books this year. The books, chosen by Ms Sweeney, are awesome and we're excited to have a spot where students can access the virtual read alouds of the books and vote for their favorites.

Yearbook: Nicole Saulnier is in charge of the yearbook this year. She will need support from room parents and really all parents to collect photos from home and from the classroom.

Talent Show: Meg Cabezud ran last year's 5th grade talent show and she was willing to help support this year's virtual talent show even though she doesn't currently have students at Dale. Unfortunately, no volunteers stepped forward to help with this task. We may try again this spring to recruit some help in this area.

Virtual Book Fair: -Jill Werner spoke with Mary MacInnes who chairs the book fair and the plan is to hold an all elementary virtual book fair at the end of April or the beginning of May. More details to come. Some ideas will be to include K-5 recommended reading, summer books, Tournament of Books books, student recommended books via a Padlet, and possibly some at-school displays to encourage families to shop online.

Door Decor Contest: The door decor contest is underway. Joe Ahern was a tremendous help with creating a Google voting form. On Monday, photos of the doors will be added to the Google form. Students will be able to vote for the Top 3 doors in each grade. Votes will be counted on 3/19, and winners and prizes will be delivered on Monday, 3/22. Plans for a Cohort D art contest are being discussed.

Next meeting via Zoom: Tuesday, May 11th at 9:15 AM