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Memorial PTO Meeting January 16, 2018

Attendees: Kelly Scobbo, Rebecca Vanucci-St. George, Ellen Toubman, Donna Olson, Nesse McCabe, Dr. Billsborough, Dr. Marsden, Erin Pepin

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Dr Marsden – School Budget for FY20 will have 4.84% increase over this year. Over 4% is teacher salaries plus added positions. Kindergarten teachers' salaries are offset by tuition. The goal is to get it down to around 4%, but still waiting to learn what we will receive as far as state money, etc. The public hearing will be on January 28th. He will go into much more in depth than in the email that is going out (direct to all parents), especially in comparing Medfield's spending to similar communities. Other communities (like Westwood and Dover Sherborn) are spending much more per child. The presentation will be available online after the meeting. Dr. Marsden's email will include a link to provide the opportunity to give feedback or ask questions that will be addressed at the public hearing. The goal for kindergarten is no lottery and a classroom cap of 22 students. There will be 2 additional kindergarten teachers. Kindergarten registration changes have been positively received.
3. Donna Olson & Ellen Toubman – World Language Selection Process
The 1st grade presentation will be posted to the website. In 1st grade, parents make the language choice, and there is a one-time

opportunity to change after 2nd grade. After that, the students are committed to their language until grade 6. There will be no changes to the program for the upcoming school year. There is no longer a Mandarin after school program as the Passport Club was implemented, and Ms. Wang left Wheelock. On January 24th a group of Wheelock students will come to the assembly for the 1st graders to help present the language choices. Recommendations from the steering committee included having language 3 times a week for 30 min (rather than 2 times for 45), adding French as an option and creating more after school activities. The current budget doesn't allow for these changes or additions. Classroom selection doesn't necessarily depend on language selection, but it did for the current 3rd grade class. There are no language classes at Memorial yet. A first step could be an afterschool club, but nothing is in the works yet.

4. Principals Report

This year the kindergarten registration was revamped to add multiple days and times for parents to register. This received positive feedback, especially from working parents. They also adjusted some forms so there was less repetition. If a lottery (selection process) is needed, it will be the 24th. They will know on Monday if one is needed. They are working on deciding where the classroom space will be for the 2 new teachers.

Upcoming programs include:

Bash the Trash (fun recycling presentation) – January 29th

Johnny the K – in March

Star Lab – in April

Curious Creatures – tbd

Food play program – healthy nutrition program (to be fit) – tbd

The “Wish List” funds have been released and the orders are coming in. The teachers are very appreciative.

5. Important Upcoming Dates

- a. Townwide PTO – 1/29 @7pm Blake LMC – Kelly is planning on attending

b. Valentine's Day Class Parties – 2/14 – usually at the end of the school day.

c. Winter Carnival – 3/9

Everything is moving smoothly and is on track. The inflatables will be delivered Friday evening. MAP will be notified that the gym will be unavailable. Volunteer signups will start soon. The poster contest will be revamped this year – it will just occur at Memorial and have a single winner.

d. Memorial Spring Event - tbd

This will be a new event in May for students and their families (after school or in the evening). 5/17 and 5/23 are the tentative dates, 5:00-7:00pm. It will be outdoor so will need a rain date. Ideas included food trucks, hotdog truck, ice cream and a DJ. Will charge a small fee to cover supplies, but we are not looking to make a profit. Another suggestion was to tie the event in with Choose to be Nice initiative and maybe have donation bins set out.

6. Presidents Report

Memorial needs to present at the town wide PTO meeting on 3/11. We can also present the spring event at this meeting.

a. Grants Funded

b. Committee Updates

i. Recess Boxes

Kelly will follow up to get these finished.

ii. Read Across America

Community readers will be on Thursday, February 28th.

iii. Hospitality

The next luncheon will be in May for teachers' appreciation

iv. Box Tops

We would like to use the earnings for an art display case. We need to push for more Tops to be turned in. Kelly will follow up with Melissa.

v. Performing Arts

vi. Social Emotional Well Being

Will try to tie in with new spring event.

- c. Spirit Wear Online Shop – open from 1/22 – 2/4
Purchases may be picked up at the carnival.

7. Treasurers Report

There is money in the “other gifts (illness, retirement)” account so we discussed doing something for Dawn Lavalee. It was decided that gift cards (gas cards or grocery) would probably be appropriate. Kelly will follow up with Michael LaFrancesca on what would be the most helpful and how to deliver it to her. A \$250 donation was agreed upon.

There is still more available money to spend. Missy will follow up with teachers to see if other needs exist that we can fund.

8. MCPE Update

MCPE approved the request for 2 sensory paths that will live in the front hall and the preschool hallway. They will be used formally and informally. The school would still like money for paint to use on the playground blacktop for hopscotch and other games.

POSITION	CHAIR	CO-CHAIR	VOLUNTEER S
Winter Carnival	n/a	n/a	20
Read Across America	Katie Novak		4
Social Emotional Well Being	Jess Griffin		
Hospitality	Mara Zeigler		10
Spring Event	Christina Wolfstich		9
Library	n/a	n/a	35
General	Diana Frascella		35
Box Tops	Melissa Roeder		
Performing Arts	Michelle Taylor		
School Supply	OPEN		
Recess Boxes	Amy DeStefano		
Kindergarten T-Shirts	Melissa Roeder		