



# Memorial PTO Meeting

September 14, 2022

In Attendance: Kelly Behbehani, Missy Bilsborough, Amanda Macbeth, Elyse Brocks, Meredith Lambert, Ali Spidalieri, Kevin Pease, Megan Rocchio, Kristin Sjo-Gaber, Katherine Weisse, Jenna Schwirts, Julie Monahan, Meredith Flannery, Rachel Grof, Nandini Nahraj, Jessica Townsend, Meghan Towne, Meghan Goldberg, Katharine Schipani.

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

## 2. Principal's Report

- a. Kids are getting into the groove of things, 1<sup>st</sup> grade being very helpful to the incoming Kindergarteners.
- b. Kindergarteners are getting into routine very well in this second week!
- c. PIN next Wed and Pic day Tuesday.

## 3. Treasurer's Report and Budget Review

- a. Coming into the school year in a really good place.
  - i. Memorials take was \$20k from color run and our balance is \$60k.
- b. Every year PTO provides teachers and specialists with money so those checks will be going out in the next few weeks.
- c. There is a special playground fund and there is \$10k set aside at this time.
- d. Most of the fundraising this year will go towards the playground.
  - i. Dues for PTO goes towards supporting things like the busses for field trips, hospitality for the teachers or requests they may have during the year etc.

## 4. Committee Chairs 2022-23

- a. Hospitality: Elyse Brocks and Christen Holmes
- b. Read Across America: Julie Monahan and Jenna Schwirtz
  - i. A school wide initiative that happens in March.
- c. Kindergarten T-shirts: We still need a volunteer for this.

- i. Close to field day all the kids get a shirt to wear for field day, a K size and one larger one for when they are seniors.
  - ii. They need to be ordered and distributed.
- d. School Supplies: Nicole Fournier
  - i. If anyone else wants to help with this that would be great.
- e. Playground Committee: Amy Gilmore and Rachel Grof
- f. Auction/ Fun Run/ K-8 Fundraisers:
  - i. Treasured experiences auction happens in March, all online.
  - ii. Rainbow Run is not happening again this year, it will happen again Oct 2023.
- g. Other Fundraising Ideas:
  - i. Boos this year/ replacement? -
    - Now that most people have ghosts we need to think of something to do instead.
  - ii. Holiday cookies -
    - This is something we do every year around mid December.
    - You sign up to get a cookie kit to bring home with cookies and icing etc.
  - iii. Paint night -
    - This was done last spring with Studio 109.
    - This is a grown up and child event.
    - Targeting November for this event this year.
  - iv. Please spread the word on these events!

## 5. Important Dates

- a. Official Memorial PTO Meeting Dates:
  - i. October 26 @ 7pm -zoom
  - ii. January 11 @ 9am
  - iii. March 8 @ 7pm -zoom
  - iv. May 3 @ 9am
- b. Parent Information Night (PIN): September 21, 6-7:30pm- This is the first in-person PIN we have had in quite some time!
  - i. Teachers give a 30min presentation talking about expectations for their classroom etc. And then parents can ask general classroom questions.
  - ii. Specialists will also be in the building for you to stop by and visit.
  - iii. The lobby will have multiple tables for different organizations parents should be aware of.
  - iv. Food services will be set up as well for parents to try samples.
  - v. Kindergarten PIN: 6-6:45pm
  - vi. First Grade PIN: 6:45-7:30pm
  - vii. PTO Booth
    - There will be a graphic explaining more about the PTO and info about the playground as well as renderings etc.
    - We can include the breakdown of the playground cost so people know what things are costing.
    - There will be a sign up sheet so people can get involved as well as give suggestions for what types of fundraisers they would like to see.

- Carpool if you can as the parking is really tight.

## 6. Upcoming Events/ Initiatives

### a. Field Trips

- i. Discovery Museum – Acton?
- ii. Last year the Discovery Museum came here to the school and did some presentations.
- iii. Kindergarten has been going to Southwick Zoo in the past but the Museum has better connections with the schools curriculum and is a better fit so we are going to change it up and go there this year.
  - The entire grade cannot go on the same day so it will be separate days.
- iv. Grade One will now be going to Stoneybrook.
- v. Preschool goes to Wards Berry Farm and timing depends on the weather.
- vi. Other PTO Field Trips/ Initiatives?

## 7. Playground Committee Introduction/ Brainstorm

### a. Playground Plan!

- i. This has been in the works since before the pandemic; discussions with contractors and suppliers etc.
  - Those plans have since been updated and things are now more expensive. Most of that has to do with turf and ground.
  - We need a lot of help and families participation.
  - Current playground is over 20 years old and not accessible to all students.
  - Working with O'Brien and Sons
- ii. Hinkley Playground- It is awesome for our town and community to have two new playgrounds.
  - They are going to be different in design.
  - Fundraising concerns- People want to know where their dollars are going as they are being asked by both for contributions.
  - Planning on doing a joined article to show a united front and address peoples concerns on this and to discuss the differences between the two playgrounds.
  - For businesses who have already donated, Hinkley Helpers has a list of businesses who couldn't donate to them but may be able to donate to a school.
- iii. Town Support
  - Danielle is meeting with the town soon to inquire about town support.
  - Missy is in the process of looking into possible grants. Trying to work with SEPAC, MCPE etc.
    1. MCPE has committed to raising \$20k
- iv. Timeline for construction
  - It won't take a huge amount of time and would be constructed over the summer, most likely summer of 2024.

- b. Memorial Class of 2033: Gift of \$10K
- c. Publicity:
  - i. Patch article
  - ii. Hometown Weekly Article
  - iii. Facebook page:
    - <https://www.facebook.com/MemorialSchoolPlaygroundCommittee/>
  - iv. Dedicated email address: memorialplaygroundcommittee@gmail.com
  - v. Is there a link to a GoFundMe or something to easily get support from donations online?
    - Yes, a PayPal account has been set up.
  - vi. It is too late to do a table/booth at Medfield Day but maybe there is another way to have visibility on that day.
    - Stickers saying we're on the PTO, ask me about it. Etc.
    - 50/50 tickets?
- d. Possible Fundraisers:
  - i. Fall: Movie Night: October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm
    - Outdoor movie night \$5 a person, families capped at \$20.
    - Working on having pizza and popcorn donated.
      - 1. Ninety Nine and local pizza places are contributing.
    - Meant to be both a community builder and a fundraiser.
    - We will need volunteers for this event.
  - ii. Spring: Food Truck Night
    - Have about 6 food trucks with a kickback to the school.
    - Raffle baskets, inflatable bounce obstacle course, face paint etc.
  - iii. Mr. Grace: Fun Sports Clinic: October 10<sup>th</sup>?
    - Teachers have been very supportive and Mr. Grace has volunteered to run a fun sports clinic for K-Grade 3.
    - 3 or 4 hours of sports and games with a \$20 suggested donation price.
    - He will need volunteers.
  - iv. Patti Allen and Studio 109: Fall Paint Night
    - Still need to firm up a date
    - Will need help to set up and clean up
  - v. Fundraising Tracker: Beth Jablonski has created graphics and put the swings in the hall and lobby and for every \$10k raised she will add a child to the swing.
  - vi. Label Fundraiser?- Sticky Monkey labels offers to help with fundraisers.
    - Includes a code to apply to a fundraiser
    - They will work with us on graphics and will provide updates monthly and give money via PayPal.
  - vii. Sponsorship name on a night?
  - viii. Personalized brick?
  - ix. Do something like a Honey Fund to purchase specific items on the playground- a swing, bolts, the slide, etc etc.
    - x. There is a playground PayPal account where people can donate to.
- e. Please sign up on the sheet on the table if you are interested in playground committee.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM (ZOOM)