

## MINUTES OF THE BRIDGE PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on November 15, 2012 at Tricia Weisberg's home, 69 Prospect Hill Road,  
Lexington MA

PTA Executive Committee Members Present: Rebecca Moore (Co-President), Justine Wirtanen (Co-President), Tricia Weisberg (Treasurer), Stephanie Mitzenmacher (Secretary), Sue Kingsbury, Laura Schroeder, Lisa Dinsmore, Christie King, Cathy Smith, Guroung Zhu, Nimisha Asthagiri

Proceedings:

- 1) Rebecca Moore called meeting to order at 1:37 pm
- 2) Rebecca makes motion to approve meeting minutes from 9/11/2012 and 10/15/2012 with changes. Justine 2nds motion. Approval unanimous.
- 3) Budget review given by Tricia Weisberg.
- 4) Principal Colella's Maternity Leave Plan update
  - a. December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013
  - b. Erin McQuire will be acting principal and advised by Hastings principal.
  - c. December 7<sup>th</sup> – all school assembly bid the principal a happy maternity leave.
- 5) Renovation Update:
  - a. Front Foyer improvements and lighting will happen over December vacation.
  - b. Glass outside front office will be installed.
- 6) PTA Coffee Connection: Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. SBRC will be reviewed – Process for standardizing report cards across grades.
  - b. Hastings Principal will be introduced.
  - c. Future meeting topics (**Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**)
    - i. Valerie Viscosi the new Director of Guidance
    - ii. Nomination of nominating committee
- 7) Other Updates:
  - a. Student enrollment is 521
  - b. 293 families are PTA members, which is a 75% participation level.
- 8) Mini-Grants Program: Proposals up to \$400 will be accepted. If the PTA is unable to fulfill a mini-grant the requestor will be directed to the Wishing Well.
- 9) Anti-bias Committee Project: Johanna Katz requested \$300 – recommended that this be split between mini-grants and the wishing well.
- 10) 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities Committee Update
  - a. Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Family Movie Night Fundraiser @ Clarke
  - b. Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade families, 4:00 to 9:00 pm at Clarke Middle School
  - c. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee will also be selling concessions at school wide activities.
- 11) Fundraising Initiatives
  - a. Barnes & Noble Book Fair – Thank you to Christie King for managing this event.
  - b. Square 1 Arts order forms due on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. Discussed that there needs to be a better explanation of the Square 1 Arts program for teachers to make the effort more worthwhile.
  - c. Sally Foster Gift-wrap: Will be online only for November and December. Interested individuals can find the code on the website.
  - d. Bridge Spirit Gear: Laura Schroeder will coordinate this effort.

- e. Scripps Gift Card/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee: Will go through December.
  - f. Community Service Holiday Gift Drive: Takes place November and December – currently 163 gifts pledged.
  - g. Library Book Fair: December 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> including an evening event.
    - i. Suggested that future Library Book Fairs would include fundraising for the PTA as well as the library.
  - h. Bridge Gift Card Drive will take place at the Vine Brook Tavern – date and time TBD.
  - i. Luminary Night: Order Deadline of November 21<sup>st</sup> for the Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> event.
  - j. Stop – n – Shop and Box Tops ongoing.
  - k. Wishing Well is ongoing.
  - l. Parent Night Out fundraiser for spring being explored.
- 12) Recent and Upcoming Events
- a. Teacher’s Appreciation Luncheon (need to thank all who brought food)
  - b. PTA Coffee Connection: Nov. 16 (Erin-Louis-Carol-Meg)
  - c. Fall Parent Social: Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup> at the new Vine Brook Tavern.
    - i. Gift card drive for Bridge Families in need.
  - d. Math Night (Jan 15, 17, 29, 31, Feb 12)
  - e. ACT update: Cartoonist Bently Boyd may visit in March.
  - f. Word Night (March 6 and 13)
  - g. International Festival (March 15, Clarke)
  - h. Reflections: Tentative date is January 4<sup>th</sup>. Gourong will confirm.
  - i. Science Night (April 4, Clarke)
  - j. Spring Fling/Bridge Community End-of-Year Celebration, Friday, May 31, 5:30-8pm (family event at Clarke)
  - k. Spring Teacher’s Appreciation Breakfast – date to be determined.
  - l. Nature’s Classroom/5G Camp: June 10-12, 2013
  - m. End of year 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities: 5G Graduation, June 19 (Bridge or Fiske Gym if raining). 5G Graduation Party @ Clarke Gym at 5-9pm, June 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - n. Last day of school: June 20 (if no more snow days)
- 13) FYI - Issues and concerns addressed this year:
- a. Bridge Renovation delays
  - b. Teachers needing shelving supplies for new classrooms
  - c. Parental concerns about SPED program
  - d. Parental concerns about student safety: exploring an ordinance prohibiting registered sex offenders from school grounds & playing fields
  - e. Parental concerns about new Standards-Based Report Card
  - f. Death of long-time Crossing Guard
  - g. Parental concerns over burdensome ePayment “convenience” fees
  - h. Concerns over custodial fees for events
  - i. PTA EC Succession plan!
  - j. Need ideas for new people on the board and particularly CO-Pres.
- 14) Next Executive Committee Meeting: December 11, 2012 at the Weisberg residence.
- 15) Meeting adjourned at 2:58

\*\* Meeting Minutes Submitted by Stephanie Mitzenmacher, PTA Secretary