

General PTA Notes, 5/17/16

1. Call to open the meeting was made by Petra Sharif
 - a. Carrie Minsavage second the motion
2. A vote to approve the meeting notes from our May meeting was called for
 - a. Carrie Minsavage voted to accept the meeting notes
 - b. Melissa Hoffmann second the vote
3. Treasurer Report
 - a. Profits from our Cinco de Mayo event totaled \$2,146.00
 - b. Profits from Artome totaled \$757.00, all of which will go to Mrs. Shramko.
 - c. Profits from Box Tops totaled \$1,644.00.
 - d. \$3,000 of leftover funds from the Fun Run were put into a general fund and were used for Middle School Music Equipment (sound board & speakers which will be delivered before 5.25.)
 - e. We have been able to fulfill all mini-grant requests for the 2016 school year.
 - i. We did not hold the Lenape assembly for first grade this year.
 - f. We are awaiting receipts from our Author's visit.
 - g. We are awaiting **XXXXX** from Mrs. Kastrud.
4. Membership report
 - a. We have over 50% teacher participation this year.
 - b. We have 264 total members.
5. Run Like a Tiger
 - a. Sponsorship is down this year. In the past, we have used sponsorship money to cover our expenses. The board has approved the use of general PTA funds to cover any additional expenses that sponsorship cannot.
 - i. These expenses include but are not limited to:
 1. Rock wall
 2. Dunk Tank
 3. Henna Tattoos
 4. DJ
 - b. Fired Up Flatbread & Kona Ice will be at the event this year.
 - c. Registration for the 5K and the 1 mile fun run is on pace to exceed last year's registration.
6. Update on the PTA's Legal Proceedings
 - a. Steve Margolis was in attendance to bring the PTA up to date on the legal proceedings concerning our former president.
 - b. Mr. Margolis has volunteered to represent the PTA.
 - c. A guilty plea has been entered by the defendant.
 - d. The defendant will be seen before the judge for sentencing on June 3rd.
 - i. As a PTA member, one is able to attend the hearing.
 - ii. As a PTA member, one is able to make a statement at the hearing.

1. Mr. Margolis has asked that anyone wishing to make a statement please contact him so that he can make a uniform statement for the PTA. Or you may contact 908.788.1403 for more information.
 - e. The PTA has asked for full restitution.
 - i. Mr. Margolis has asked us to note that even if it is demanded, it may not be paid.
 - ii. It may take a long time for the PTA to recoup all lost funds.
 - iii. Restitution/payment plan is based on ability to pay.
 - f. The PTA will be going to TD bank to recoup \$4,000 that was taken with a forged check.
 - g. Any punishment will stay on the defendant's record.
 - i. PTI was taken off of the table.
 - h. Two questions were asked:
 - i. Is a criminal fine covered under bankruptcy?
 - ii. In NJ, can one's wages be garnished to pay back restitution?
 1. Mr. Margolis will follow up with Casie/Robin on these two points.
7. Summer Camp
 - a. Yoga and Drama camp sign-ups are open.
8. 8th Grade Awards
9. High School Awards
 - a. Suzie Schuyler heads up the committee in charge of handing out the High School Scholarship award.
 - b. \$150 is awarded to one graduating female and one male whose parents were part of the PTA for at least three years.
 - c. Potential winners are asked to write an essay to answer the question: "Who was your most influential teacher at UTS?"
10. PTA Website
 - a. The website has been updated with
 - i. The PTA Bylaws
 - ii. Committee Chair Document
 - iii. Financial Document
11. Open PTA Chair positions
 - a. Breakfast with Santa
 - b. ES & MS Book fair
12. Graduation Signs
 - a. Graduation sign & balloon packages are for sale.
 - b. The 7th grade is sponsoring this fundraiser to start raising funds for their 8th grade activities.
13. Coupon Book
 - a. Jackie Gazzillo will chair this fundraiser but will be making changes to how books are distributed, especially at the middle school.
 - b. Discussion was also had about having the books only available to order online.
14. Board of Education

- a. Petra Sharif was approached by Cindy Czaskos, an area real estate agent, about the declining rating of the elementary school. Mrs. Czaskos also brought these concerns to the board of education via her husband, Bob Czaskos. She claims she has lost real estate sales due to these rankings.
 - i. She feels that younger families are not moving to this area due to these ratings and home values are declining.
 - ii. Further discussion points brought up were:
 - 1. Why are we not a blue ribbon school?
 - 2. Why has our superintendent not distributed a profile of each school to parents?
 - 3. Why do we not have full day kindergarten?
 - 4. What are the underlying reasons for the decline?
 - 5. Our G & T teacher was not prepared for class, thus affecting student learning.
 - iii. Websites that supported these declining numbers
 - 1. NJ DOE
 - a. School progress reports are posted
 - b. Independent ratings
 - 2. GreatSchools.org
 - 3. SchoolDigger.com

15. Board Member Voting

- a. VP Elementary School
 - i. Anna Shustack
- b. Secretary
 - i. Sue Henn
 - 1. Kara Cherney accepted the nomination
 - 2. Melissa Hoffmann Second
 - a. Votes
 - i. Yes: 22
 - ii. N: 1
 - iii. A: 0
- c. VP High School
 - i. Amy Masters
 - 1. Carries Minsavage accepted the nomination
 - 2. Julie Korson second
 - a. Votes
 - i. Yes: 20
 - ii. No: 2
 - iii. A: 1
- d. Treasurer
 - i. Julie Korson
 - 1. Carrie Minsavage accepted the nomination

2. JP LaBelle second

a. Votes

- i. Yes: 23
- ii. No: 0
- iii. A: 0

e. President

i. Robin Patton

- 1. Kara Cherney accepted the nomination
- 2. Marie Cascio second

a. Votes

- i. Yes: 18
- ii. No: 1
- iii. A: 4