

Parents Association

February 4, 2011

Minutes taken by Gema Gray in the absence of PA Secretary and reviewed by Lisa Harvey-Mone

Call to Order: 8:05am

Review and Approval of Minutes

December 2011: Motion to Approve Priscilla Kelly. Seconded Karen Boyle. Approved Unanimously.

January 2012: Motion to Approve Karen Boyle. Seconded Priscilla Kelly. Approved Unanimously.

Announcement

SSCPS Development Director Joanna McCarthy was scheduled to speak at the meeting but was unable to attend. She was involved in a car crash and suffered a concussion, but is expected to make a full recovery. She will be invited to attend a future meeting.

School Reports

Alicia Savage, Executive Director

January Open House: very well attended. Thanks to PA – especially Maureen Hebert – and the volunteer students and parents who all did a great job giving tours, answering questions and “selling” our school to prospective parents.

February 8: Several things happening this day:

Early Dismissal – Staff will be working on data from formative assessments to inform instruction going forward. There is a positive outlook for MCAS. Parents should continue doing the support work they are doing at home – it’s working!

Letters of Intent due – Grade Reps please get the word out

Enrollment Applications due 5pm – For new parents *and* for current families applying for siblings for next year.

Enrollment Lottery: Saturday February 11 (9am or 10am?)

Annual Fund: February challenge. Anonymous donor of \$5,000 matching funds. Every \$1 donated will get matched by this donor up to \$5,000.

TERI College Planning: Tuesday February 7 4:30-6pm, for parents and students. Part of the work the school does to help families/students through the college planning/application/finances process organized by Mary Carter and Angie Pepin. FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) came last week. The process is a huge challenge, involves lots of writing for funding, scholarships etc. It’s like an extra part-time job for students to do everything required.

Ted Hirsch, K-6 Principal

Sibling Enrollment Applications: Please, please remind families to get applications in by February. Siblings cannot be considered if the applications are not submitted.

Formative assessments: The second batch of formative assessments showed significant progress. The school is cautiously optimistic that we can meet AYP in MCAS this year. Teachers will be making adjustments in instruction based on these results. For the first time the school is tracking these results by subgroup as well as by individual and group, in order to mirror the how the State breaks down scores.

Level I MFA Field Trip: As always our kids were great! We’re only one of 2 schools allowed to take 1st Graders to the MFA.

Improving Behavior: Now that the stress of Holidays and the darkest Quarter of the year are over, students’ behavior has improved and everyone is settling down again.

Level II maternity leave: Krista will continue to work at least until February school vacation week. Kristin Waldron will be Acting Level Coordinator during Krista’s maternity leave.

Angie Pepin, 7-12 Principal (with baby Zoë)

College Planning:

Students had the opportunity to go to a session at Massasoit where they could take all their college application and funding paperwork for review.

TERI planning this week.

General Comments:

Mid-terms are over. Normal classes have resumed.

Students fundraising and organizing a ski trip.

Level IV project EOMs next week

Professional Development Day: Staff planning classes for next year. What science classes will be offered for seniors?

Biology/Chemistry/Physics taken in first three HS years. AP Biology will continue. AP English will be offered.

Current Juniors' interests will be taken into consideration.

Polina Shpilker, Student Representative

Junior Seminar starting

Senior Project starts soon. Proposals need to be submitted by March 23.

Ski Trip next Friday (February 10). Please make sure deposits are paid, so organizers can make sure there is sufficient interest to move forward.

Parents Association Reports**Elissa Dennis, PA Treasurer**

Time for another round of PA grants to be awarded. Applications are due February 16. They must be accurate, detailed and complete. Information will be distributed to administration and level coordinators.

Gema: Please can we encourage HS teachers to submit requests. The HS has not received disbursements because they're not participating in the process.

Grade Reports**Kindergarten**

Teachers are encouraging parents to submit form letters being forwarded to them and to Googlegroups, in order to thank Gov. Patrick for providing \$3M to fund full-day kindergarten in MA. Parents reported that some towns are offering full-day K but the cost is high (\$2,000-\$3,000 in some towns; Milton \$4,500!).

EOM: Children should be working on these over the February vacation. They will have the packets with information, schedule etc. before then. Presentations will be shortly after the vacation week.

Field trip to Plymouth Plantation coming in May.

1st Grade: No report

2nd Grade

Velma wishes to express thanks for all the support for all of the Level I field trips. They were enjoyed by all!

Leigh wants to give a "very public shout out" to Cyndi Wormald for her tremendous efforts in organizing the teacher shelves in the back of the library. "What an amazing sight to see when I first walked back there, dreading wading through the mess, only to find everything ordered in piles by grade AND by subject."

"To Katie's mom – YOU INFINITELY ROCK!" – Leigh

Project based EOMs are being worked on currently and will be scheduled for after February vacation week.

3rd Grade: No Report

4th Grade: From Krista...

Students should be working on their Exhibition boards and practicing their presentations next week. Students are encouraged to have their presentations practiced so they don't need to read off notecards.

Exhibition days/times have been sent home and parents are encouraged to attend their child's presentation.

Presentations are 2/14 and 2/16.

Pod Parents should be organizing Art Auction items to be completed by pods. We have set aside time on Friday, February 17th to work on these projects.

Kristin Swanson will be taking over as Level Coordinator while Krista is out on maternity leave.

Laurie Hogan will be taking over as Krista's long term substitute while she is out on maternity leave. She has already started working on the level to ensure a smoother transition when Krista leaves around the first week of March.

4th grade Long Composition MCAS date is Tuesday, March 20th. Other ELA MCAS dates will be announced by next PA meeting.

5th & 6th Grade:

Very poor response to DC trip. Not sure why...cost, location, other reasons? Looking for feedback...

Anyone interested in the trip should contact Kerry or Claire. Do not register for trip until there are enough

numbers to make sure it can go ahead. Otherwise, deposit \$\$ will be lost.

25 people signed up for Europe trip.

In response to a question Ted explained the following about FIT:

Kids identified as either needing extra support or excelling in a subject can have these needs met during FIT

Two parents volunteering as FIT instructors:

Creative Writing – a Massasoit Professor

Spanish – native Spanish speaker.

7th Grade

Parents should get in touch w/teachers to discuss any concerns/questions about report cards. Report cards are to be signed and returned to the homeroom teacher.

There has been some confusion on grades...there are 3 different grades: a grade for the 2nd quarter, a grade for the midterm exam (which has nothing to do w/the 2nd quarter grade), and a current grade for the year (which includes the first 2quarters and the midterm exam).

8th Grade: Open Position.

The PA needs an 8th Grade parent to step forward for the rest of the academic year.

9th Grade: No Report

10th & 11th Grade

Thanks to Pam Algera for organizing Ski Club

EOMs are done!

12th Grade

No Report. Irina wanted to share some advice...

FAFSA – students should begin to think about this in 9th Grade. Should take SAT practice. MIT does prep courses for \$100. Not expensive. Excellent course offered every 6 months at weekends. Also HSSP – HS Summer program. Look into scholarships etc. in Sophomore year. Relieves the stress of Junior and Senior year.

There was a general discussion about our culture of college, how students are prepared for a college experience etc. Parents from lower grades were appreciative of the discussion. It helps us to remember that we're a K-12 school. Talking about college as an educational goal should be encouraged at the lower levels. Many parents unaware of our HS requirements for example.

Lisa: the PA needs to get back to the idea first suggested over the summer of creating Level Guides with the school so parents can access a lot of this information.

Kerry: Can we bring the HS to the lower levels for example in Town Meeting?

Committee Reports

Arts & Music

Music lessons are going well!

Heather is working on getting a piano donated to the school to potentially be auctioned.

Community Service

TeenLife Volunteer fair Sunday Feb 12 at Chestnut Hill Mall.

If our students participate in some of the opportunities advertised (e.g. at walks or organizing events for big fundraisers) they should wear school apparel.

Walk for Hunger prep. event to paint signs – details on website and in Update.

Health & Safety

Yeemay has a contact at the MBTA to bring in someone to speak to the older students about riding the T safely. She will coordinate with Ted and teachers to find best times for level 3 and up for the speaker to be able to talk to the students.

Does the PA have funds to pay the speaker? Can the school pay for this?

Library

The books bought with proceeds from the Book Fair have arrived. Mostly reference selections.

Have a good selection of science fair "How To" books that explain the scientific method and how to go about a science fair project.

SEPAC: No news from SEPAC. Always looking to help parents and recruit new members.

Technology: Looking at the possibility of automating the auction by using a bar code system.

Volunteer: No Report

Welcoming: Thanks to all the students and parents who volunteered at the January Open House.

Old Business

After School Enrichment

We need funds for next year – about \$25,000 for the homework help.
Everyone must fill out a registration form.
We have 3 homework help rooms.
Snack is going well.
Music lessons are going extremely well. Kudos to Heather for organizing this. The HS instructors (e.g. Austin Matthews) are fabulous.
Need to expand for next year as there was more interest than the program could meet this time around.
Working with Joanna McCarthy to apply for grant \$\$ to have on-site rental of instruments.
Surprised by lack of interest in Museum of Science program.

Auction

March 30 at The Elms
The student artwork is looking great even though it's not finished.
Denise Demaggio would like volunteers to help making calls for advertising and donations; picking up donations; soliciting donations of parent skills; set-up and clean-up on the night.

Golf Tournament

1st Friday in June at Indian Pond in Kingston.
Mark Stevenson is organizing this event.

Gillette Stadium Fundraiser

Should receive check from first event any day now.
Once we know how much money we raised, we can have a discussion about whether to do this again in the future.

Level II Library Time

Ted explained that every class has an opportunity to visit the Library during FIT, but that not every child has that opportunity.

Political Action Workshop Magazine

Angie said parents can contact Laura DiSalvo to get electronic copies of previous issues.
The workshop is exploring the idea of making future issues available as PDFs in order to meet increased demand.
Angie was asked to pass on the PA's thanks to the workshop for sparking very interesting discussions with their work.

New Business

Dining for a Cause

There was a discussion for how the PA should spend the funds raised through the monthly restaurant drives.
There was strong support for the money to be used to pay for fresh fruit in the after school program.
Motion Proposed: Money raised through the Dining for a Cause program should be added to the PA's current allocation and included in the PA grant award system. Proposed by Kerry. Seconded by Priscilla Kelly.
Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Fund

Lisa distributed the new glossy flyer with participation by grade level broken out. (See attached)
Parent participation has increased from 18% to 28% since December.
PA Officials participation has increased from 47% to 76% in that time. We have to get to 100%!
Kerry organized a Level II social that raised funds for Annual Fund.
Debbie and Iris said they would run the Level I & II Social.

Announcements

Harvard materials have been donated to the AP Biology class.
North River Arts Society and Scituate Federal Savings Bank offering scholarships for children to attend art classes. (See attached flyer)

Meeting adjourned 10:10am