

## **Abbey Lane PTA Minutes**

**November 18, 2014**

**Call to order** by Gabrielle Herbert at 7pm, Quorum present. Welcome to all, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. **Recording Secretary:** Minutes from October 21, 2014 were emailed to PTA members who submitted their email address and were also presented at the meeting for review. Minutes were approved and to be filed as written.
- II. **Treasurers Report:** Report by Michelle Fielding, Treasurer's report distributed and filed for audit. Please refer to the filed budget. October Books audited by Stephanie Gannon on 11-17-14 and were found to be in good standing. It was expressed that there has been few issues with checks bouncing, the committee will look into forming a policy and follow up with a proposal at the next PTA meeting. Motion made by Michelle Fielding to approve treasurers filed report - 1<sup>st</sup> by Mrs. Swint and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenny DeMeo. All in Favor, None Opposed, Motion Carried.
- III. **Guest Speaker:** Naomi from LI Blood Services presented information regarding the Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive. On Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade received a "Little Doctors" program presentation, informing them on the importance of blood donations and having people pledge for this blood drive. Flyers were available and were sent out.
- IV. **Special Committees:**
  - **Bling Apparel-** Orders came in and few extra apparel are available for purchase. Another order will be placed, flyer will be sent out, adding scarves to the collection. *Please see Dawn Marmo – Chair for more information.*
  - **Gift Wrap Fundraiser** - Orders were delivered, two orders needed replacements and were sent today. Thank you to Beth Lyons for Chairing. Profit will be presented at the next meeting.
  - **Pie Sale** – Orders were submitted today to Grand Café, Delivery will be during the week of December 15<sup>th</sup>; Items will have to be picked up or they will be donated to the Wisdom Pantry, they cannot be sent home with children. Thank you to Trinity Galarza for chairing.
  - **Book Fair** – Was held on November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, More volunteers will be needed at the next event, Reminder that there is a tax charge through scholastic, there were a few issues with children not having enough, Tax information is stated on the flyer, but for the next event we will send out a memo as well. Thank you again to the volunteers and Samantha Stanley & Jen Pirozzi for chairing.
  - **Pictures** – Picture Retake Day will be held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will also take their group picture and club photos that day. *Marie Adams - Chair*
  - **Vendor Fair** – Confirmed Friday December 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-10pm, About 18 vendors have signed up, entry was \$25 for a table and a donation for the Annual Fundraiser. Please see *Dawn Marmo* for more information.
  - **BJs** – Flyers will be sent out in the Spring again for PTA membership to sign up with an extra 3 months and percentage coming back to the school. *Jamie Mahoney – Chair.*
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Yearbook Packets due back by January 10<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will take their group picture in front of the banner on Nov 25, asking for children to wear red shirts. *Please see Jamie Mahoney-Chair, for more information*
  - **School Apparel** – Red and Grey apparel will be offered with personalization available for \$3 extra. Flyer will be going home. *Gaby Herbert & Lisa Lanyo – Chairs*
  - **Secret Store** – Will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>; During the day, classes will be going at assigned times, and will also have an evening session. If checks are sent, no change will be given over \$5. Items range from 50¢ to \$12. Volunteers are needed night before to unpack and set up items. *Lori Edvabsky & Jen Pirozzi - Chairs*
- V. **Standing Committee Reports:**
  - **Cultural Arts** – All grades will now be able to see the theater presentation of "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day", 5<sup>th</sup> Grade scheduled to have an I.Robot Program, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will have a Bugging Out presentation by Botanical Gardens, Grade K will have a Touch Tank; Grades 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> will have a Hacky Sack physical education program "Myachi"; Grades 1-2<sup>nd</sup> will have an author Darien Sarell present.
  - **Membership** – Currently at 230 Members, PTA Membership Drive ongoing - grade with the highest percentage of PTA memberships by May 31, 2015 will receive an ice cream party at end of the year. Since each grade varies in size, results are being calculated by percentage versus the grade with most memberships. Results will be posted on the Website.
  - **Annual Fundraiser** is on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Verdi's; Theme is "Abbey Lane's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"; Donations still needed, Classes have chosen their theme baskets, class moms have been notified and asked to arrange

donations for their classes, Invites were sent out and offer an early raffle for early submission, Planning Committee meet again; will need assistance with the tech aspect which Stephanie Gannon assisted last year, Anyone who would like to take part, please contact *Dawn Marmo or Amy Hoffman - Chairs*

- Reflections – Deadline for Reflections Contest “The World will Be A Better Place....” is November 19<sup>th</sup> Committee will meet to choose winners, 30 submissions; Next year’s theme will be “Let Imagination Fly”
- Honorary Life - Congratulation given to Dr. Tom Shiel for this year’s Honorary Life recipient, Dinner will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Crest Hollow Country Club for all Honorary Life Award Recipients and anyone who would like to attend, Fliers will be sent home.

#### **VI. Liaison Reports:**

- Elementary/Secondary Curriculum: Elementary schools will be closed on April 27<sup>th</sup>, not originally on the calendar, to score ELAs. Parent Workshop on Jan 28, 2015 at 6:30pm at LMEC –Workshops for all grades on Invisions Math to provide student/parents resources. Application for LAMP and LAP will be available online only next year. New SAT & PSATS in 2015. Universal Pre-K being discussed. Changes to the Middle and High School Science curriculums for next year. 8th Grade Accelerated & 9th Grade Non-Accelerated course will now be Living Environment, followed by Earth Science, Chemistry and Physics. Kaplan SAT Course being held at a reduced price. College Planning Workshop will be arranged; geared towards 10th Grade to provide a “head start” on college prep information. Curriculum Associate for English, Mr. Zimmer, has left the District and a replacement is being sought. A “Senior Experience” course is being proposed as a pilot in the High Schools for next year – would provide students with internships, resources and information regarding work experience, job readiness, interviews, resumes, etc.
- SEPTA- SEPTA meeting on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, had guest speaker Marlies Brandt from The Cody Center, presented on “Addressing Puberty and Sexuality with your Special Needs Child”. Resolutions for convention were discussed. SEPTA meeting on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, had guest speaker Valerie Reid – Regional Coordinator for Parent to Parent, a non-profit organization established to connect families of individuals with Special Needs. Provided hands on instruction on how to best organize child’s records. Membership is up to 300 members, 80% staff.
- Food Service – Aramark will be introducing new nuggets from Tyson – All White Meat Nuggets to the lunch menu, and children will be receiving 7 instead of 8 due to a bigger size portion. Aramark representative Kim Volpe will be going to cafeterias to make sure proper temp logs are being done, check freezer products and food waste/spoilage. Equipment being looked at district wide, Abbey has no issues. If there are any complaints, Jenny Demeo can bring them to the committee. Committee is looking into other options and the pros and cons on not using the government meal program. Looking into having a dispenser for utensils.

#### **VII. Principal’s Report:**

Dr. Maurer stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade had their Captree Trips, even though the weather might not have been great, they all had a great time. For LEADD week, we ended with having students run the parade route and PTA hosted a table, hoping for more of a turnout moving forward. Parent University had 30 parents attend, Raffle door prize was given from the PTA. Student Council Elections took place, speeches of candidates were recorded and shown to the classes. Book fair was a great success, Thank you to all the volunteers. There was a Terrific Kids assembly, which was videotaped for families. Conferences will be held this week and parents will be receiving a connect-ed message to those parents who have not signed up for Parent Portal, which is the only way that you will receive their report cards. Anyone having issues, can contact the school.

#### **VIII. New Business:**

Marie Adams expressed thanks to PTA and membership for attending the NYS PTA Conference in Saratoga. She attended many workshops including Online Safety, Family Reading Experience and PTA Congressional sessions. She handed a packet explaining some of the apps that kids are logging into. They also displayed a reading interactive program, PTA will look into hold the program at Abbey.

Tina Bodkin also sent her thanks for attending the conference and will report out at the next meeting.

Dr. Tom Sheil discussed a pilot program “Calm Classroom” taking place over 9 weeks, going into classrooms and teaching children the power of relaxation and having a quiet mind. Teaching them to “Be Present”. Responses are to have the children be more receptive and open to learning, when they slow their minds. Over 200 schools, are doing the program and showing good results. 2/3 of classes are performing in the program.