

Merchantville PTA meeting Minutes

January, 18, 2012

Ami Meachum called the meeting to order

Anti bullying presentation – Speaker Kristin O’Neill.

This presentation is the last phase of the training for the Merchantville School. The staff, students and now parents are receiving the training.

The HIB (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying) law is being discussed and explained to the parents present. The law is publicized in the Merchantville School website. Please check the web site for the full law and procedures <http://merchantvilleschool.org>.

The school has Mrs. Jeanne Leise as Anti Bullying Specialist & Dr. Sue Roth as Anti Bullying Coordinator. The coordinator will collect data and the specialist will investigate cases brought up to the school.

XXXX

Meeting started with voting of PTA bylaws. The revisions offered by the bylaws committee was submitted for approval.

Membership: up to \$6 individual and \$11 family.

Officers: change not a correction. There is a president, 5 vice presidents a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary and treasurer.

Meetings: 9 general meetings of this local PTA during the school year.

Ana Conway motion to approve the 3 revisions above.

Barb Carfagno second

Ayes: _____ Nay: 0

Reports of Officers.

- Treasure’s Report
checking \$10,053.89
Savings \$7,614.64
Total \$17,668.53
- President Report
During the School board meeting it was discussed the send/receive situation with Pennsauken. It was approved by the Merchantville and Haddon Heights board members

that both districts would pursue the end of the relationship with Pennsauken and start with Haddon Heights.

- Membership Report

It is low at this point compared to last year. There is an idea of having another drive and still waiting for intramural basketball numbers.

Reports of Committees.

- Intramural basketball report: 2 clinics were held. Total of 80 children. All ran smoothly. Little kids are more excited than older kids. It will start 1st week of February. To sign up parents can go to the web site and fill in the application.
- Talent show report – 21 acts, 1 teacher act and 1 boy scouts act. There will be 2 shows one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Need of person for ticket sales and help with keeping children in their places ready for their acts.
- Author Day – Author coming is Audrey Vernick on March 7th. She has young and junior high books. There will be numerous workshops for the whole school geared towards the student's ages. Mrs. Diem offered to help organize the day since there are still some details to be taken care of.
- Take your family to school week (Feb. 13 – 19) Last minute adjustments being done. There will be a family dinner for free on Wed night the 15th. 2 opportunities to have dinner one at 6pm and one at 7:15pm. There will also be a parent visitation day. The schedule will be sent home. The week will end with the Spirit After Dark.
- Tea party – The date is on March 25th. Rebecca Calloway is the chairperson. After the first meeting it was decided not to make changes for this year. Some new things will be incorporated. There is no theme yet. Donations already have started, there is a big flat screen tv. Meeting will be set for some time soon.
- Science expo. – Honningfeld is not chairing this year since she is helping out with graduation. Last year was in conjunction with board election. The election moved to fall. This will be revisited next meeting.
- Movie night – Tentative date Feb. 24th at 7pm. probably in the auditorium since the gym has been renovated recently.
- Book Fair – March 12 to 16. Book fair theme is luau. Use of Ambassadors and high school students are a good idea.

Meeting adjourned.

Ways and Means – Denise Grasso

- Bake sale – Election Day at the fire house on November 2nd. Kate will be selling goodies and is looking for donations of baked goods to sell. Those that would like to volunteer can bring them to the school on Nov 2nd and make arrangements with Kate or Ami.

- Entertainment books – Marilyn – This year’s book is \$35. Inside there is a shopper’s card to be registered online by who purchased the book and this person will be able to also print out coupons. Books were already sent home. Books that are not purchased are to be send back to the school.
- Gift Wrap – Marisa – We have sold \$5,000 worth of total order meaning that PTA gets 50% of the total being \$2,500. For those that did not purchase now or have friends out of town the order online still opened until oct. 31st and the school PTA still gets credit. The order is sent to the home address not the school in this case.
- Silver Diner Night - Marisa – The date set is Tuesday, Nov. 30th from 5 to 8. The Diner has a Eat Well program that is no cost to us or to the costumer. It is a rewards program and they asked us to hand out the membership forms to parents of the school.
- Book Fair – Rebecca – the Fair is from November 8 to the 12th. Parent’s night will be on Thursday this year. Signup sheet will be sent to the teachers soon. Ami explained the program to the new parents.
- Cell phones – The collection of cell phones and ink cartridge was passed over to the naturalist club.

Mr. Swanson. Handed out calendars and talked about events coming up. The haunted house is on the 22nd and 23rd; Lego league had 4 more weeks to go and has been running well; picture day is on the 26th and Halloween parade/party for the 5th grade and under is on Friday the 29th. Mr. Swanson explained to new parents pick up and drop off procedure (11:40 pick up and 12:45 drop off) and the parade route.

Upcoming event in November are School closed on the 4th, and 5th; conferences from the 17th to the 19th (info going home soon) and Thanksgiving on 24th.

Enrichment – Kate

- Book club started – lower grade has about 7 kids and upper grade has about 6 kids. Kate is Looking into possibility of doing off-site book club with older grade. Mr. Swanson advised due to liability since is still a school function to get approval from the school board.
- Art Fair/Science Fair – Cultural Arts Night in spring already takes care of art and Kate is looking into a possibility of having a Science Fair.
- Newspaper – Mrs. Cook is in charge of the school newspaper and the PTA feels like we should get more involved on that. If we could find someone that is passionate or would like to devote time to develop a more elaborate school newspaper that would be great. We would like to have the students write pieces about school events/PTA events.

Ongoing Programs – Summer

- Art-a-Facts – Janice – Janice is getting things moving. Luanne, previous chairperson, is working with Janice in getting ideas for this year. Luanne explained the program to new parents.
- Junior High Dances – We need a chairperson. Ana will help. We used to have two a year. Last year we only had 1. And it seems to be better this way. The idea is to have it in spring time around the same time as the Spirit After Dark program.
- Movie night also looking to have around the spring time.
- Student Ambassador – Ambassadors are Junior High students that assist the PTA in PTA events/functions. They have to have recommendation from a teacher, fill out an application form. A problem with previous years is that students make commitment without parents being involved in decisions. Which a lot of the students say they can participate on a certain event to later find out from parents that they can't. Need better communication with parents, form signed by parents. Give more notice, at least a week. And remind students this is volunteer work grades are not part of it in any way.

Public Relations – Marilyn

- Signage board – outside the school by the small playground was already updated.
- Directory – The cover page contest is being voted on and we are expecting the directory to be done in 2 weeks.

Programs – Nykea

- LEGO League – The group has 37 kids k-2nd grade. The end time was changed to 4pm. Kids are doing a wonderful job. They need more legos. After this session is done there is a thought of doing only 2nd and 3rd for the winter. Maybe on Saturday s. There is interest from the older children from 3rd to 5th grade but we need to find a chairperson.
- Take your family to school week - February 13th to 19th. We are looking to boost parental involvement. IN the newsletter there is a piece from the School Board that is called Merchantville Moving Forward. They are looking for some ideas to help with parental involvement. Keep parents visitation day going.

Membership – Shawn

- There are 120 members. Early birds award is if PTA gets 80% of members by a certain date. Shawn unfortunately does not have accurate information from the previous years. The files that came to her/president were corrupted and could not be opened. Shawn is trying to do a November Membership Drive. There will be a contest among the classes to see who can get the most membership. They will be working towards a ice cream party in their classroom if winning.
- There should be a reminder to the parents that in order to play intramural basketball the student has to be a member. It was suggested that we have a

table for membership in all PTA/school events and to also use different means to reach parents. The PTA is also on Facebook .

- Ami attend the Borough Council Meeting recently and introduced herself and invited the members to become part of the PTA. She wants to bring the community to the PTA, not only parents and teachers.

Treasure's Report – Barb

As of 9/15/10 – we have \$7985.40 on checking and 44029.72 on savings totaling \$12015.12.

After some checks clear the total amount on hand will be \$11877.09

There was some money spent on the teacher's supplies that is supposed to come out from the savings account. At this moment was paid for with money from the checking account and soon will be replenished. The transfer from savings to checking will occur soon.

School board meeting – Ami attended. Still looking to fill up all the slots to attend the meetings from now to the end of the school year.

New Business – Chick a filet need now 4 days to be able to donate food during the Teacher appreciation week. We already have one date done.

Next meeting is on November 10th at 7pm in the Library.

Meeting adjourned.