

Relay Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2017

Submitted by: Shaunta Chapple, Secretary

- **Meeting called to order @ 6:30 pm by Angela Anderson, President**

- **Treasurer's Report by Rachel Sontag, Treasurer:**
 - Report reviewed in detail- see attached
 - Check received from Chipotle Night fundraiser (\$774)
 - Would like to increase budget for Polar Express Activity to \$700, tentatively

- **Brief Polar Express Discussion**
 - Angela explained the Polar Express activity to new members/families who may have been unfamiliar
 - Date of event: Friday, December 22, 2017; last day of school before Winter Break

- **Fifth Grade Committee Report by Rich Mix**
 - Good turnout for Chipotle Night
 - Next McDonald's Night: December 14th
 - Fifth Grade Committee to sell pizza, snacks, drinks at the Holiday Activity
 - Vendor Fair went well

- **Teacher Report by Kathleen Benedick**
 - No true faculty update
 - Virtual Fieldtrip (Maryland Historical Society) set up in Maker Space
 - Technology used similar to Face Time between MD Historical Society staff and field trip attendees

- Trunk option selected , was economical, and enjoyed by the children, who were engaged and asked good questions
- Video on Twitter

- **Administrative Report by Jason Barnett, Principal**

- Thanks to Fifth Grade Committee for bringing Vendor Fair to Relay; spoke with Heather Mix and this event seems sustainable
- Thanks to Book Fair volunteers
- Great show of support during American Education Week. Grandparents Day was most attended day- 200 visitors that were not pre-registered in Raptor came to Relay, thought to be a total of approximately 275 visitors that day
- Thanks to those who have collected and contributed things to the committee that serves those who are less fortunate
- Construction update: Base paving, fence down, top layer stripping, then sidewalks will be worked on. Working on two ball fields and one hard court area for wet weather days to get students outdoors
- Would like to do a practice traffic pattern, essentially in reverse.
- Old school sign to come down, and new digital sign coming shortly. Staff will be trained on using the sign. Recommended that one PTA member be trained on operating the digital sign so that PTA news and events can be displayed
- Ballroom Dancing begins next week for Fifth Grade; will be held each day during usual special time; will culminate in gym with parent spectators
- Wednesday is Winter Concert. Assemblies will be held during the day, and December 13th will be the evening performance
- Lots of afterschool clubs going on right now. Epic Kids club donated candy to the community; Eco-Explorers is in its second round (for grades K-2 and 3-5); two groups may be run in response to level of interest
- Polar Express will be held the week of the 18th
- Inclement weather highlights to come; families can call the school for inclement weather information

- December 19: Family Coding Night being held in connection with the Computer Science Teachers of Maryland. Elected official from Governor's office will speak during the event. Open to grades K-5; 100 slots, first come, first serve, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Student devices will be set up. Tinker and Edmodo resources will be available for children to get involved in coding, solving logic problems, taking a different approach, and using different resources. Child and parent will learn about coding together with hands on coding, games, drones, etc. If overwhelming response, may be able to offer another Coding Night in the Spring on a larger scale and include STEM
- Catonsville Honor Society would like to assist with Relay's STEM Fair somehow; hope to meet before break and plan for hands-on activities for grades K-5 during STEM fair

- **Question from Shannon Speake-**

- Has the lower field been used yet?
- No, this field is wet and muddy, not in use.
- Discussed possible drainage problem as field is constantly wet and thought to have been a spring previously. Mr. Barnett will continue to follow.

- **Upcoming events (Angela)**

- Holiday Activity- Winter Around the World: December 20th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Blurb on Relay website about this event. Sign-up genius for volunteers going out soon. Would like to consider adding Diwali to the event
- MD 529 Non-profit state agency for College Savings Options. Interested in allowing them to present at meeting? Yes, schedule presentation for end of February meeting.

- **Open Discussion- Holiday Family Donations**

- There is money in the PTA budget for this

- Ms. Campbell organizes
 - Epic Kids club will stuff 32 Christmas stockings with candy and school supplies, and Giant gift cards will be distributed
 - Question: Has anything gone out to request donations? No, but will be put in newsletter. If families are interested, an email will go out containing donation information.
 - Donation tree is also in the teacher's lounge
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- Floor opened for continued discussion, questions, comments, concerns- None
 - Next meeting: January 8th
 - **Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 pm**