

A.W. Hanmer Elementary School

PTO Meeting - Thursday, May 19 2016 @ 3:30pm

Minutes

In Attendance: Marjorie Carson, Nicole and Robert Hart, Margaret Zacchei, Mrs. Schryver, Erin Kennedy, Pamela Molochko.

Presidents' Report: Open Positions for next year's Board/Committees – Treasurer, Secretary and First Year presidents. We will email out more reminders. Let us know if you can think of anyone who wants to get involved from the lower grades. Possible names mentioned: Dana Sorvillo or Christine Roth, etc.

Nicole Hart mentioned that Mike Clark may agree to take on the treasurer position, but not sure.

Principal's Report: SBAC going very smoothly. Kickball “kick off” was a success and may do this for the lower grades before end of school.

The budget for next year is very tight; only increased by .04%. The BOA this year was able to find a lot of savings in certain areas because of a number of retirements and insurance savings, etc. No positions will be lost this coming year. But she worries about the year after next. They cut the Professional Development Columbia training which she was sorry to see go. Not sure what it will be replaced with and hopes the town eventually turns to a more consistent professional development days, like Glastonbury does with half day Wednesdays. The Silas Deane Middle School is still getting their new math program so everyone is happy to see that. First Grade will need another teacher next year. 6th Grade next year will stay with 3 teachers. The office is still waiting on Kindergarten numbers for next year. Will probably be three kindergarten classes.

Principal Wish list for this year from PTO will be a request for 3 more area rugs for the new floors. We may also look for a wireless microphone for the Hanmer Happenings videos so we can hear kids better.

Next year – hoping to start a Student Leadership Council for each grade and each month a different grade gets to do certain projects.

Mrs. Zacchei also promoted the idea of having a Hanmer PTO meeting at the High School next year and get a tour of the new building.

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Schryver said that all the teachers really appreciated the meals and goodies provided by the PTO Hospitality Committee for Teacher Appreciation Week and she presented the PTO with a wonderful thank you note from all the teachers.

Treasurer's Report: See attached

WSPC Report (Wethersfield Schools Parent Council): Keane Foundation – through Caroline Fazzina – is trying to schedule afterschool enrichment for all the elementary schools. She called up Mrs. Zacchei to ask about space and available rooms at Hanmer. We will see what she comes up with.

Nicole Hart went to the Safe Routes to School Meeting and reported that the Dept. of Transportation finally came out with their report for each school as to how safe they are to walk to and suggestions for improving crosswalks, sight lines, sidewalks, etc. It came late in the year, so we hope to push the Walk and Bike to School Initiative more next year. Mrs. Zacchei will be looking at the report this summer and see what improvements we can make. WSPC – made up really good posters on facts about walking to school and crossing guards and other information. WSPC is spreading those around to schools, library, etc.

Next year, WSPC plans on focusing on better ways of communicating throughout the district through the School Messenger email service (but leave the phone part to just very important or emergency matters). Example – if something is happening at the High School that other kids from the elementary schools would be interested in or if there are security issues at other schools, etc. Or if the High School sports team is on a championship match, many other kids/parents would like to know.

Committee Reports:

Field Day – is happening next Friday. Deanna Cawley-Ford is organizing volunteers.

Spring Fair – having it at Pine Acres on June 3rd. Mrs. Zacchei reported that about 8 teachers and she will donate a raffle prize of their own, such as Principal for the Day or Pizza delivery at your house from Mrs. Zacchei, etc.

Pancake Breakfast – seem to go well. Made more money on the raffle this year.

Variety Show - went well, but less acts than in the past.

6th Grade Committee – Pamela Molochko noted that everything is going well. The budget for the committee is good. They plan on donating a “Buddy Bench” to the school as their 6th Grade present.

FroYo – 5th Grade Fundraiser – Seem to go well. Not sure how much money was made, but a lot of people attended.

Enrichment – went well this year. Most events have happened, except for readers workshop for lower grades. Need to schedule Red Supreme Hip Hop Week for next year; are waiting to see if we got a Keane Grant for that.

Open Business: Mrs. Weaver may paint the new planters we have out front to give them more color. Fred Bushy gave us clearance to get a Rain Barrel to help with watering flowers. Pamela Molochko noted that the Nature Center may have Rain Barrels for sale and we can buy one from them. She agreed to look into it for us.

Next and Final Meeting of the Year: June 9th @ 7pm