

PTO Agenda/Meeting Notes

February 8, 2017

7pm



Attendees: Adam, Liz, Kerry, Negar, Beth, Nick Jathar, Taryn, Barbara, Jen B.

7:11pm meeting called to order

*Kindness Challenge:

Liz began "Beth, Joan (from CCC) and a few parents are serving on this committee. We wanted to see if it is getting feedback: Is the kindness challenge working?" Beth said she received an email that a parents said saying it was great.

"Is the the Kindness Challenge working? Should we leave it in there?"

Liz is looking for input. "Does anyone have suggestions, first 10 weeks are planned but the next 7 need ideas."

*Board and Committee positions for 2018/2019:

Adam began "Biggest challenge is the Co-president when Liz finishes her term. Other positions are 2 year positions so they are set for next year. If anyone has a candidate or interest in becoming co president please speak up."

*Metco

Adam then went onto discuss the METCO

"Beth set up a bowling event with the Metco families at Boston Bowl. She invited the Mecto families to all go out and enjoy an evening together." It was a wonderful and successful event.

Liz thanked Beth.

Liz wonders if Renuka and similar groups should do small group get togethers such as CPac or FORG?

Liz and Adam expressed an interest in emulating similar small group events to include more people. They expressed the desire to reach more people, especially low key small group events.

*Musical:

Rakashi spoke about the upcoming Musical this weekend (!) The Musical production crew tried to sell tickets online only to limit overcrowding like last year. Unfortunately, the Musical was completely sold out as of last week and there are still some families reaching out in hopes of getting tickets. WE are doing all that we can to accommodate them by adding more seats and trying to find if anyone has extra tickets. We will find a way to ensure that everyone gets to watch the Musical. The kids have done a great job and the show will be wonderful. Preview for the school tomorrow at 9am.

*FORG

Kerry spoke about FORG. “The next meeting date has changed to March 1st. The first meeting was good. At the next meeting we are starting with an identity exercise, as parents we are talking about identifying themselves, similar to exercises the teachers have been doing.

FORG will tie into Movie night because the movie, Zootopia deals with race, identity and preconceived notions, so sending out discussion questions using that movie as a starting point.

FORG is something that is taking form with time.”

Beth added: “To piggyback off of what FORG is doing Title 1 reserved funds for an ELL Conversation group at the school on Thursday Mornings, and 10 adults came today. Everyone is welcome to join, spread the word.”

*Movie night

Nick presented his Progress on Movie Night Planning. Nick has the Zootopia licence. “We choose the single showing license which is \$172. Swank says the choice of the movie and date affects the cost of the license. License says that we can charge tickets prices, as long as profits don't exceed licensing costs.” Nick added “I was floored by the net profit of \$800 expected by the movie night! I hope we make it.”

He is hoping to have sign up geniuses ready soon so people can begin signing up to bring in baked goods, water etc. By the March 8th meeting, he hopes to have everything locked in and ready for Movie Night. The date for Movie night is Friday the 23rd of March.

(As an aside Kerry asked if anyone had seen the questionable Flyer that went around about Newton Curriculum whitewashing the Islam.)

*Multicultural Festival:

Taryn presented “We have a few new families and Tables. But we are having trouble putting people together and finding ways to connect families from the same countries. Any ideas to put people in contact? Email? “

Suggested: Use update to find table mates? There doesn't see to be a way to check what countries people come from aside from asking.

Finally, Taryn said they have more tables (Countries) than last year.

*Informal Parent Party:

Liz and Adam suggested doing an Informal Parent Party for the “off year” when we don;t do the formal parent party. “Maybe a hang out yard game party?”

Jen asked “What about the Social like the grade parties?” Liz suggested “Corn hole party with a tournament.” Adama and Liz spoke about a school where the parents used someone's yard, three families provided all the food, alcohol and games and charged admission where they ended making much more than what was expected.

Takeaway: Please Think of an informal event or place for a parent party.

*Raffel

Liz presented a Raffle update: it will begin on March 1st. Sending raffle material to Ken to get printed. This year the team is trying to switch it up by adding tons of prizes and tons of tickets; The new idea is to sell 2 sheets of tickets for 2 for \$50, and 5 sheets of tickets for \$100. The prizes are great and even include a Trip to Mexico, wine tasting, \$350 gift card and art gallery etc..

PTO also bought an ipad and Amazon Show as prizes. And of course there are lots of Teacher putings and experiences as well.

*Dates

Adam and Liz then talked about switching some dates around to create a better flow for fundraising. They suggested moving the Raffle out a little later so the prizes line up better as Lead time is 8 weeks for most large donations, so collecting and using those donations is complicated. They also pointed out how Everything comes at once (Raffle, Multicultural Festival, Musical, etc..) So let's push the Raffle further out. Then they suggested moving the Parent party to the fall. Barbara added that in this way the parents would get to know each other earlier on and the Mystery Dinner could be moved further out and away from Halloween and Thanksgiving. Adam also added that

hall rentals are harder in the spring due to all the parties (graduations. weddings etc) so the fall will be more convenient. Difficulty is that we need to recruit the Parent Party Organizer now.

Beth added a few final comments:

- *She asked for ideas how to keep people out of the faculty parking lot.

- *Principal coffee is the morning of March 22 where Jen Ortega will talk about "new math"

Jen B. asked her if the PTO should donate purel for the lunch room; Beth will check if that can be done and meets food allergy standards.

The PTO thanked Jen B. for hosting

Meeting adjourned at 8:17