**Countryside PTO Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 8, 8:30pm Location: Countryside Cafetorium

Meeting called to order: 8:30pm

Present: Shion Walsh, Adam Howes, Lori Zinner, Sharon Morgenbesser, Sue Johnston, Becky Schwartz, Beth Herlihy, Melissa Waltuck, Sangetta Jahar

**Agenda:**

Next meeting – instead of 2/13, likely will be Tuesday 2/11, maybe combine with David Fleishman/school committee presentation. Shy will confirm with Barbara and update

**Internet Safety Presentation** – Follow-up and Discussion Principal Herlihy, others

Presentation was well-received and informative. Could come back for 4th-5th grade presentation which would be of interest. Also middle school – will reach out to PTO there.

**Upcoming events:**

**Teacher Grab & Go Luncheon**  Lori Zinner
Being organized by Manny Steiner & Lori Zinner. Is Tuesday 1/28. Signup genius went out today – need people for setup and cleanup etc. Also going in Update. Will get platters from Panera vs Wegmans. Dairy and gluten allergies accommodated.

Lori mentioned she has also found a Wachusett skiing fundraiser – blast will go out, and in Update.

**Musical Update**  Rakashi Chand
Rakashi away so Board reviewed briefly. Scheduled for Feb 9-10. No blasts have gone out - Julie will check in with Rakashi. Program needs to be printed and awaiting other details.

**PTO Survey discussion** Julie Winsett
We reviewed plans for PTO Survey, with a goal of increasing parent involvement in the school. Sue – her daughter is in school elsewhere - they do evites and signup genius; parents sign up for different holidays and events thruout the year, such as the 100th day of school, Groundhog day etc; has proved successful there. Board discussed having parents be “Mystery readers”. Beth suggested bringing up at teacher rep meeting to get their input and make sure not disruptive. Beth mentioned we have so much talent in the community, and it would be great to share this with our children. Lori – bring your parent to school day, like a career day. Sangeeta – mystery guest or mystery profession could learn about that topic. Beth – ask teachers about different science units and have parent coordinate with this. Julie presented the PTO survey done a few years ago, but noted this was more emphasized on PTO events specifically. Beth – focus on engagement and bringing in the community. Board consensus was that community involvement should be the focus, not the PTO events/review (future idea). Adam - Google docs has great survey tools, better than survey monkey.
Action items: Beth/Shy will review at teacher rep meeting. Julie will then check in on interest and next steps, ?are others interested in working on this.

**PTO Directory - class lists/parent contacts** Julie Winsett
The printed PTO directory has a class list with student names, but includes just 1-parent contact. This was furnished by Ms. Wallace this year (from aspen input likely). A parent expressed concerns this may leave out one parent, if people use this email list. People noted the printed directory has always just been 1 parent. Next year could just list kids names, and then have parent contact in the family section. Teachers use aspen – depends on what families put here. Next year – don’t have primary email list. No other parents have expressed concerns so for now, will not furnish further labels etc.

**Green Team Update**  Julie Winsett
Gave a brief overview of the CS Green Team, which is off to a great start, with a diverse membership from many grades. Have official meetings, have done a few projects including markers and textiles recycling. Interested in starting a Student Green Team – have teacher support. Will be reviewed at teacher rep meeting, and then hopefully establish student team from there. Freya got grant thru BOCS – could explore this. Is a way to involve other students. Working on “Tip of the week” to keep practical and in peoples’ minds. Sue mentions there was kindness tip of the week last year.

Action items: Beth/Shy will review at teacher rep meeting. Julie will check in on next steps after this.

**Questions and other miscellaneous topics
Raffle update** Lori Zinner
Raffle is scheduled for 3/24. Beth will confirm with teachers and specialists who usually contribute prizes. 51+ prizes already. Raffle Team has meeting upcoming to further review details.

**Mr. Detlefsen** Principal Herlihy
Has retired. Board expressed concerns and he is missed. Beth is quickly and actively working on this. Has formed search team. Model lessons coming up. Mr. D emailed his students at the time. Have a regular sub.

Principal Herlihy is also hiring new aides. Aide(s) quit.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15pm

Next meeting: was to be Thursday, February 13, likely now Tues February 11 at CS Cafetorium, please see details pending above