

Hanson PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2024

6:30 PM

Indian Head Library



+ Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Jenna P. motioned to approve
- Andrea C. seconded

+ Board's Welcome & Business

- Outdoor classroom plans update – town items have been approved and now we need Digsafe to come out. The footings will be completed after the holidays. Then South Shore Vo Tech will be ready to build the structure.
- Storage for PTO items – Ms. Costa moved what she could out of the gray cabinet on the stage and the PTO can use that for our storage needs.
- Book vending machine request discussion – discussed the options for purchasing a book vending machine through Scholastic which would be about \$12,000 Scholastic Dollars. We have just under that in our balance. Discussed that it would be preferred that we don't spend all the Scholastic Dollars on this as no funds would be left for the spring book fair or gifts to teachers to restock their classrooms. They would like to see what we spend on teachers and at the book fair and then decide based on the Scholastic balance. Also discussed paying from our PTO account which would get us the machine quicker. Mr. Tranter and Ms. Costa agreed that it would be better to start a new school year in September with the machine, vs. mid year. If it will be birthday based, that will be easier to start at the new year. Discussed the Scholastic book package to fill the machines cost \$3000 which comes with 2 book packs for 500 kids. Mr. Tranter also thought the PTO should spend its balance on better items that teachers or students may need. Agreed to table this item until the April or May meeting and then vote on use of Scholastic Dollars vs. purchasing the machine for \$6000.
- PTO has been selected as a nonprofit partner in the Shaw's GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Reusable Bag Program. \$1 donation for each \$3.00 GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Reusable Bag sold during the month of January 2025 at Shaw's in Hanson.

+ Principals' Update

- Mr. Tranter noted the measurements for the outdoor classroom were taken and measured for code and Digsafe. He also talked to the building inspector and how they may need more money for things like a porta potty, fill, etc. Discussed that the classroom might be able to be used by early spring.
- The kindergarten concert was last week and next week is grade 1-3. They are filming the concerns to show on Hanson cable.
- The WIN block ends tomorrow and January diagnostics will take place next.

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- The past events like pie in the face and the fun run are on the Hanson community access channel on YouTube. They will try to add videos once a month. Staff have been trained on how to operate the camera.

+ Treasurer's Report: Balance Update and Outstanding Obligations

- See report
- Also noted we are receiving matching donations from the Fun Run. Companies can match donations.

+ Post Event Review

- Toy Box fundraiser (Kristin Ernest) – held 11/20 – we made \$430 from this fundraiser
- Hanson Holiday Fest (Tina Arsenault) – held 12/7 – lots of fun at this event for the community
- PTO Holiday shop (Kaity Crowley and Tiffany Taber) – week of December 9th – there have been many helpers and the kids have loved it. Items have been replenished quickly too. Alison guessed we are at \$10,000 in sales through today. We receive 10% of all sales as profit. This is not supposed to be a money maker and is just a fun thing for the kids. Good feedback on the vouchers for the kids and for the gift bags that Reindeer Lane supplied.
- Raise Right gift cards – ended 12/3 – made about \$100 on this fundraiser and Alison will be distributing the cards.

+ Upcoming Events / Fundraisers – voting requests to follow

- Polar Plunge / winter fundraiser – decided that we will not have the Polar Plunge due to declining enrollment. Discussed possibility of targeted the businesses that usually sponsor the Plunge to sponsor our fund run or field day tshirts instead. Discussed posting a Facebook poll for PTO members to share ideas for other winter fundraisers to replace the Polar Plunge.

+ Voting Requests (\$676.09) – ALL ITEMS PASSED

- Grade K (Donna Galewski) – four (4) hands on phonics games (Amazon) - \$83.36
- Grade 2 (all) – bells, tickets and hot chocolate cups for Polar Express day - \$158.90
 - Noted that we were not going to receive this in time for the Polar Express day, so Tina Arsenault purchased the items personally. We will reimburse Tina for the actual amount of \$253.80. The cost rose because the original items requested were out of stock so a substitute had to be purchased.

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- Abby Lagerval (all) – occupational therapy rug for flex seating - \$201.86
- Cheryl Neary (all – gym) – hula hoops and fleece balls for gym - \$231.97

+ School Committee Rep Update

- Maria gave the update on the most recent meeting. Duval Elementary did a live tv show demo like they do at school. The iReady curriculum was discussed as well as data collection and use devices for learning. Also discussed how MCAS results can be predicted based on testing tools. The student advisory council discussed high school updates and giving back over the holidays. Also noted WH spends a lower percentage on school than other towns (average is 44%). Lastly, the committee discussed the appointment of a school committee/building committee for the Whitman middle school.

+ Future Events/Fundraisers (to be discussed at future meetings)

- Sweetheart Dance Chairperson and volunteers
 - The PTO can set a budget at the January meeting and get volunteers. Discussed how last year the selfie station was a big hit.

+ Chairperson/Committee/Volunteer Opportunities

- Outdoor Classroom Committee (Chairperson Chris Peffley)
- School Committee Rep (Maria Robbins)
- School Store Coordinator Erica Burke and volunteers: grade 1-4 once per month, 2 days per week
- Book Fair volunteers
- Holiday Shop Chairperson and volunteers (Kaitly Crowley and Tiffany Taber)
- Polar Plunge Committee and volunteers
- Sweetheart Dance Chairperson and volunteers
- Teacher Appreciation week volunteers
- Box Tops leader
- Various other volunteer opportunities at events and fundraisers throughout the year

+ Events/Other Business

+ Open Discussion/Questions

+ Next meeting: January 9 at 6:30pm