

Hanson PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 9, 2024

6:00 PM

Indian Head Library



+ Approval of April 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Alison D. motioned to approve
- Beth D. seconded

+ Board's Welcome & Business

- Outdoor classroom plans update and voting on budget – recap of what has been done so far: a local architect drew up plans at no cost and we picked a site/location along with school reps. The PTO tried to obtain Whitman's elementary schools' plans and costs but we received no response. One of the schools didn't have the plans anymore. The PTO asked Indian Head staff what type of plans they wanted and they came up with a more circular shape. An octagon is more costly than a square and there are more excavation costs at Indian Head because the site is not level. The planned materials should last a long time, the seating should account for animals, and the bench would have a metal bench with wood on top for easy replacement if needed. Two rounds of plans were drafted and we got quotes around February of this year. The PTO also asked for local contractor recommendations. Eight to nine contractors were contacted and three replied (one subbed out contractors so it was more like two quotes). PTO President Kate Fisher's husband is a contractor so he and Cape Cod Lumber (CCL) put together the materials list. The PTO gave this to the two contractors and they presented their quotes. One was more detailed and the other was simpler. The PTO was able to get them more in line on details for comparison purposes. CCL materials would be \$20,000 with substantial discounts and a donation to PTO of \$500 (not included in the \$20,000). There could be future discounts as well at the time the materials are purchased. One of the quotes was from Select Pro and the other from Carter Construction. Carter was \$10,000 more expensive but said they could build it quicker. The PTO prepared and handed out options that show Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3. Overall, option "a" within Option 1 is \$57,350 and option "b" within Option 1 is \$67,800. (These are quotes from the two companies, Select Pro and Carter.) Option 2 shows cost if South Shore Vo-Tech (SSVT) builds it. There is no labor cost with SSVT because it's a municipal project. If we go with SSVT (Option 2), the PTO could make a future donation to SSVT. We still have to pay for excavation, materials, and tarp at \$20,000. The timeline is later at early winter (December/January). We would not have to worry about kids playing outside. Option 3 would include going back to the drawing board for a new design of the structure that is cheaper. The Board likes the SSVT option because it's a community project, students working on it could be local, we don't have to pay for labor, and the materials are higher quality than what Whitman has. Also, the PTO does not have \$67,000 for Option 1. We would need to earmark \$50,000 today and then raise the rest. It would start in the summer. Option 3 would take more time, likely spring of 2025. As of today, we have \$52,000 to spend. Option 4 (not on the list) is to not do an outdoor classroom at all. Noted that we did fundraise specifically for an outdoor classroom. Noted that in the fall we will have the Fun Run which raises about \$30,000. Fun Run could provide funds for extras

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such as landscaping. Each year the PTO should be spending money for the kids in the school currently and try to get the balance close to \$0. Discussed that it was advised that due to Med Flights, the structure should be hurricane proof.

- One comment was noted that the kids feel they already “won” the outdoor classroom because of the fundraising efforts and we reached fundraising goals. Option 4 would not be desired for that reason. Discussion that we should not pigeonhole fundraising efforts for a specific cause until we know what the costs will be first.
- Question if facilities can build it? Answer is no because of other district projects.
- Question if we are on SSVT’s timeline? Once we get the Superintendent’s approval, then SSVT will do the permitting, and PTO will have to hire the excavator. Today’s vote is only on which option to vote on. SSVT in the future will work with CCL to account for materials. The excavation could cost \$6000.
- Question on when is the completion date? It stays on track with their curriculum and other jobs they have lined up. We will find out the timeline.
- The PTO took a vote and the members unanimously voted for Option 2 (SSVT). As such, the PTO will earmark \$35,000 (materials + excavation estimates).
- Electronic sign update – the sign has arrived. The school will get training on how to add messages after it’s put together. Big thanks to the PTO.
- Scholastic Dollar update - balance \$4823.09 after purchasing items for 5 teacher gift baskets for teacher appreciation week raffle. Projected balance is about \$1450 if all teachers use their Scholastic gift certificates from the PTO to shop during book fair. We also gave out \$480 worth of Scholastic gift certificates to students who won the Raise Craze classroom incentives. The \$1450 can be used by needy students during the book fair. Discussed whether to take book fair sales in Scholastic Dollars or in cash. Decided to take in Scholastic Dollars to further fund teacher requests.

📌 Principals’ Update

- Principal Jocelyn thanked the PTO for a respective, supportive and helpful year. Teachers felt the same support from the PTO.
- Admin is planning for next year and closing out this year. MCAS is wrapping next week.
- WIN blocks were a big success and are ending this week. It allowed lower performing kids to meet without sacrificing those who are exceeding.
- Students’ behavior is also going ok given it’s the end of the school year.
- Teachers are working on class lists. There are no openings for hiring.
- Discussed a new phonics program from the University of FL. It’s free except for a \$90 teacher manual. Piloted last year and now they use it. K is reading at higher levels. School is purchasing more teacher guides. Discussed how this is different from the voting item

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today on phonics word work. The voting item uses magnets to move words around. Indian Head purchased one and all the teachers tried it. It's sturdy and should last 2-4 years.

- Noted many June activities are scheduled.
- K info night went well. 77 students have been signed up for K screening. Continue to post to Facebook. Trying to balance the classrooms before K starts.
- Noted the cafeteria fans are working well.
- Discussed how much funds are left if the PTO votes to approve all requests tonight. Should have \$4000 going into September. Noted we need to push Dr. Jocelyn's request for a book vending machine til September to ensure we don't run out of money.

+ Treasurer's Report: Balance Update and Outstanding Obligations

- See report

+ Post Event Review

- Brain Show – April 29th – was fun and the teachers and students loved it. 4th grade loved having their own show.
- Also noted the all-school slushies (incentive from Raise Craze) were a hit.
- Teacher Appreciation week (PTO Board, Planning Committee) – week of May 6th - Heidi's loves coming here for their ice cream sundae station. 74 gift cards were donated and 5 Scholastic baskets so everyone on staff should receive something.

+ Upcoming Events / Fundraisers – voting requests to follow

- May book fair (Andrea Cipolla) – week of May 20th - reminder for CORI forms, SignUp Genius for time slots to volunteer. We will also need a table for the hallway and can close up the fair while it's in the hallway off hours. Set up is May 17.
- Field Day – June 10 – Mr. Kniffen is looking into whether parents can attend to watch. Kids will be traveling from station to station. Will need parent volunteers. National Honor Society will help too.

+ Voting Requests (\$13,245.41 + outdoor classroom vote (\$35,000 - \$67,800)) – Voting will take place at end of meeting – Outdoor classroom passed using SSVT (earmark \$35,000). All other items passed.**

- Mrs. White (grade K) - sand and water activity center - \$416.36
- Mrs. Manter (all) – pond sticks for coy pond - \$26
- Grade 2 – birthday crowns, play doh and homework bags for September - \$315
- PTO – communication folders for all students in the Fall - \$962.90
- Mrs. Lawler (K) – stacking stools and wobble stools - \$285

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- Mrs. Ziniti (K) – bounce chairs - \$771.15
- Kniffen (all) – field day supplies - \$1674
- Grade 2 – Scholastic magazine for all grade 2 for 2024/2025 (includes \$75 shipping)- \$825
- Grades K, 1 and 2 – phonics word work sets (60 sets – 20 for grades K, 1 and 2 (there are 6 in a set so they would need 4 per classroom)) - \$5385 *
- Mrs. Camara (grade 2) – math lesson sets for her classroom and magnetic borders - \$175
- Mrs. Lukos (grade 3) – mobile dry erase board with flip chart - \$175
- Mrs. Sears (grade 2) – math manipulatives and scented markers - \$85
- PTO – K night (August) - \$1000
- PTO – teacher welcome back lunch (August) – \$750
- PTO – Quickbooks – \$400 (for 2024/2025 school year)
- **PTO – vote on budget for outdoor classroom
 - Votes range depending on option that is voted on:
 - Option 1 - \$57,350 - \$67,800
 - Option 2 - \$35,000
 - Option 3 - \$35,000 to earmark

+ School Committee Rep Update

- Alison Dillon gave the update.
- Whitman approved the school budget and Hanson did not.
- School Committee didn't reduce the budget so the Select Board may need to hold a special town meeting. If the town votes no again on the budget, then both Whitman and Hanson would need to have a super town meeting.
- Very few parents were at the town meeting. It could have implications for newer teachers who feel uncertain about their jobs.

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

- 2025 Spring Book Fair (Andrea Cipolla) – reserved for week of May 25, 2025, but AC will be away for work. Discussed that the PTO can determine a replacement for the week.
- Kindergarten welcome event and teacher welcome back lunch – August
- Fun Run – October

+ Chairperson/Committee/Volunteer Opportunities

+ Events/Other Business

+ Open Discussion/Questions

- Noted that next year, school store will be month to month sign ups.

+ Next meeting: September (TBD)