

# **Hanson PTO Meeting Minutes**

*Thursday, March 14, 2024*

*7:00 PM*

*Indian Head Library*



## **+ Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes**

- Meagan M. motioned to approve
- Beth D. seconded

## **+ Board's Welcome & Business**

- Outdoor classroom plans update – we reached out to 5 contractors, and 2 are working on labor quotes for this week (not available at the time of the meeting). They are sending them to PTO once available. We are looking for feedback on when to start building (during school/spring or in the summer). Dr. Joelyn was concerned with workers being at the school during school hours and also with materials being left out as they could be a hazard. We will need to talk through those details before anything is started. We have a supply budget from Cape Cod lumber but Alison did not have specifics on the dollar amount. Group to be updated at the April meeting. South Shore Vo Tech can't do it because they would only build the benches.
- Raise Craze fundraiser update – see below for updates
- Electronic Sign update – Ms. Costa is asking Facilities and Technology. There are two sign options with different lengths. We have to figure out the base and how the system will interact. We also discussed the need for an enclosure and PTO can discuss that.
- Kindergarten info night is April 30, PTO speaker requested – PTO (Alison) will attend and PTO can post a link on our website and PTO and Hanson Facebook pages. They would like 90-95% of the kindergarten students registered before the May screening.
- Note that our April meeting is April 4, which is the first Thursday of the month. We moved it up a week for parent-teacher conferences which is April 11.
- Scholastic Dollar balance \$7048.45
  - Scholastic Dollars usage request: Grade 3 purchase of 18 Scholastic Children's Dictionaries and 18 Scholastic Children's Thesauruses to improve students' writing. To be split between Mrs. Hanlon and Mrs. DeProse. Scholastic Dollars cost/spent will be \$791.60. We also discussed offering this to the other 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers and Alison will ask them. There was no objection.
- Cafeteria fan update has been requested – Dr. Jocelyn asked Facilities and is waiting for them to get back to him/PTO. We are hopeful this can be an April PTO meeting request.

## **+ Principals' Update**

- Noted the iReady diagnostics email was sent.
- If any student is significantly below on their diagnostics, a letter would be sent home. This is a new state law that they need to send a letter. Dr. Jocelyn noted this could be concerning to some parents. He noted some low scores may not be indicative of actual performance. Prior to the test, interventionists helped out but that could have been anxiety inducing and could have driven the score down. This was for grades K-3.

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- A list of all field trips and events has been compiled including showcases, for parents.
- MCAS is coming up and the kids are ready. They are excited that they will be allowed to chew gum.
- Mentioned the 9-1-1 presentations that occurred. Many of the students in grades kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade did not know their parents' names (i.e. thought their name was Mom or Dad), phone number or address. The school sent home suggestions to caregivers.

## **+ Treasurer's Report: Balance Update and Outstanding Obligations**

- See report
- Noted that money raised in the Raise Craze fundraiser will replenish some of the balance.

## **+ Post Event Review**

- Sweetheart Dance – February 9<sup>th</sup> – most feedback was that they liked the two photo booths and the two DJs.
- Cyber Sense Presentation – March 14<sup>th</sup> – feedback was that some parents have attended this presentation by the Plymouth County DA's office before, and that the content is the same year to year. Some suggested that they present real life steps that parents can take to protect phone usage. Also discussed that a special presentation would be helpful on certain apps like Roblox, smart watches, games, etc. and how strangers can interact with kids on those platforms. Also noted that if it was offered on Zoom, or if the YMCA provided child care, more parents might attend.

## **+ Upcoming Events / Fundraisers – voting requests to follow**

- Raise Craze fundraiser (Tina Arsenault) – March 25-April 5 – Tina made a travelling trophy which she brought to the meeting. A class with the most Acts of Kindness (AOKs) from the prior day will get the trophy that day. Announcements will be made each morning. This is a pay it forward fundraiser to do AOKs and raise money. PTO would like to push the AOKs more than the donations. The theme is “kindness blooms” so the cafeteria will have a green hedge background on the board and kids who earn AOKs can place flower stickers on the hedge. Kids will also get a kindness coin sticker from their teacher if they do kind things, and they can log that at home as an AOK. On the kickoff day, March 25, kids will get a sticker to bring home to scan. We are hoping that more than 50% of students register this year. We are also hosting a family craft night and kids can earn 5 AOKs just that night by the kindness activities. There will be a Sign Up Genius to help out. Tina will come by the school each morning to give out prizes for the teachers to hand out.
- Raise Craze family craft night (Tina Arsenault) – March 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 pm
- Brain Show (Tina Arsenault) – April 29<sup>th</sup> – there will be 3 shows, the same schedule as last year.

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- Teacher Appreciation week (Kate Fisher and Kristin Ernest) – week of May 6<sup>th</sup> – present survey results from teachers. We discussed the survey results, where staff answered what they liked about teacher appreciation week and what they would like the PTO to do. Kristen got pricing from Heidi's for ice cream, and she also has the signs for in front of the school. She will put those out on May 5. Discussed maybe doing a Sign Up Genius for gift cards so the amount is pre-determined and you know how many you are getting. Noted there is a total staff of 75. This includes paras and lunch staff and everyone is included whenever they do the raffle. Alison will talk to Kate Fisher about the Sign Up Genius idea and we thought \$15 might be a good amount for gift cards. We also discussed the new yoga business (name not given) as an option. If anyone has ideas, please email the PTO.
- May book fair (Andrea Cipolla) – week of May 20<sup>th</sup> - part of the book fair will be held in the hallway to accommodate the kindergarten screening, and then it will move back into the library. A Sign Up Genius will be sent as it gets closer for volunteers.

## **✚ Voting Requests (\$17,155.74) – ALL PASSED**

- Grade 3 - field trip to Blake Planetarium and Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, & bus costs – \$1739.70
- Grades K-4 - button maker and button parts (Amazon) to make buttons for all students for incentives, themed days, birthdays, etc. - \$600
- Grades K-4 – Cricut Educator bundle, training, and 1 year subscription – for all teachers to create engaging and personalized displays - \$4490.88
  - Ms. Costa noted that the District is looking into a District subscription
- Kindergarten – three (3) 9x12' classroom rugs - \$1,996.99
- Kindergarten – Scholastic News for 125 students for 2024/2025 school year - \$748.75
- Grade 2 – three (3) buses for field trip to North River Wildlife Sanctuary as part of grant program from Audubon Society - \$744.42
- Grade 1 (Kelsey Ryan) – wobble chair flexible seating (2 wobble chairs) - \$160
- Brain Show cost – 3 shows. Cost \$3100.
- Wellness teacher Bob Kniffen for grades K-4, for portable GaGa Ball Pit and Utility Cart (Amazon) for bringing gym supplies or GaGa ball pit outside – \$1750
- Grade 4 – book request – new books from Amazon for the classroom libraries - \$1800
- Website domain name renewal - \$25

## **✚ School Committee Rep Update**

- Maria was not in attendance at the PTO meeting. It was mentioned that the committee mostly discussed the school budget.

## **✚ Future Events/Fundraisers (to be discussed at future meetings)**

- Book Fair (Andrea Cipolla) –week of May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Teacher Appreciation week – week of May 6<sup>th</sup>

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- Kindergarten welcome event – August – discussed some ideas for the kids to get to know each other. Some ideas were Balloon Lou, and Beth will ask about that. Another suggestion was a magician and to have the kids from each class sit together.

## **+ Chairperson/Committee/Volunteer Opportunities**

- School Store Coordinator Erica Burke and volunteers
- Polar Plunge Committee and volunteers
- Sweetheart Dance Chairperson and volunteers
- Book Fair volunteers
- Teacher Appreciation week volunteers
- Box Tops leader Kristin Ernest
- Various other volunteer opportunities at events and fundraisers throughout the year

## **+ Events/Other Business**

## **+ Open Discussion/Questions**

## **+ Next meeting: 4/4 @ 7pm Indian Head Library**

## **+ Monthly meetings for 2023/2024 school year – 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/4 & 5/9**