

Pocasset Elementary School PTO

Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2017

Meeting called to order by PTO President, Jocelyn Sherman, 6:15pm

Officers in attendance:

Jocelyn Sherman, Marissa Conley, Jennifer Joslyn and Stacey Ouellette

School Personnel:

Principal Deanne Reilly

Teachers: Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Azevedo, Mrs. Simmons Mr. Deblois and Mrs. Edwards

Parent Attendance:

Liz C., Sarah C., Tina R., Carrie D., Jennifer H., Beth S., Ashely B., Angela M., Jessie C., Catherine S., Melissa B., Mike B., Julie D., Scott D., Ellen H., Melanie M., Joshua D., Andrea F., Ashley C., Sara C., Kathryn H., Jennifer M., Michelle F., Brooke S., Sarah C., Danielle H., Amy P., Jenn W., Vicki S., David P., Christie P., Matt E., Mat J., Mike D. and Heidi E.

Childcare provided by Maryann D. with assistance from Tiverton Middle School Volunteers

President's Report

- A "Year in Review" was passed around introducing all of last year's family activities and fundraising.
- Dave Paul and Christie Petro introduced as new Box Top Team. New contests to be announced for highest box top raising classroom.
- We held our first annual Color Run. Every child in the school participated whether they fundraised or not.
- Children last year enjoyed a free assembly with basketball player from URI. It was last minute but was a huge success. The players expressed the importance of teamwork and anti-bullying. Each child received a t-shirt, autograph and ticket to a game. Because our school had great attendance at the school, they are interested in coming back and talking with the children in the classrooms. Stay tuned for more information.

Principal's Report:

- There are new teachers in the building this year.
- STEM products have been purchased as well as flexible seating for some classrooms. The flexible seating is helping "learning gears to children's needs."
- There is a third first grade classroom this year.

- Some teachers are implementing a no homework policy. The children will continue to have reading at home, hoping to make it enjoyable, rather than a stressor.

Treasurer:

- The PTO is starting the year off with a balance of \$1988.00
- Upcoming following expenses include a yearbook deposit of \$850, September family fun night and Halloween family fun night.
- Fundraising was discussed. The Foxwoods bus trip raised \$1700.
- The PTO fundraises to support the classrooms, including the purchasing of flexible seating, and field trips. The average bus cost \$450 for a field trip.
- The funds that are raised during each school year and attempted to be used the same year, so the children that fundraise benefit from the fundraising.
- Mr. Feinstein matches \$1 per canned good donated. That funding is also used to assist in cost of field trips/buses.
- The school is giving back to the community. The canned goods collected are donated to the Tiverton food pantry. The soup fundraiser donated bags of soup to the overflow shelter in Fall River.
- A Buddy Bench has been purchased for the school yard. It is hoped that it will be shipping soon.

Box Tops

- A new Box Top post mailbox has been created and will be posted outside of the library.
- If children completed the collection sheet that was handed out at the end of the school year, they should return them as soon as possible.
- A new collection sheet will be going home with the students soon.
- Some Box Tops will be expiring on 11/01/2018; parents should send those in as well.

Upcoming Events

- September 29th is the first family fun night. An outdoor movie will be shown. Titles were discussed and a Facebook poll will be placed on the PTO Facebook page.
 - Vendors include: Mooseman's Kettle Corn and Jim's Shave Ice. The vendors will have snacks for sale.
 - A tiki hut will also be available. The owner has offered the tiki hut for free. His normal fee is \$1000. He is willing to run it or the parents could run it.
 - A sign-up genius will be emailed for volunteers.
- September 23rd is Country Day at Pardon Gray. The event is 10am-4pm.
 - Our table will have crafts as well as a raffle for an undecided price.
- Fall Fundraiser will be Mixed Bags and Otis Spunkmeyer cookies. The roll out will be in the next 1 ½ to 2 weeks.

- Halloween Fun Night will be on October 27th. The DJ has been booked. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for the photo booth. A pumpkin patch will be available.
- Open House will be on September 14th. It is not to be utilized as a parent teacher conference.
 - Children with last name A-L are from 6-630 and last names M-Z are from 630-7. Parking is limited. Parents are asked to utilize parking at the back of the field. Parents are not allowed to park at Family Ties.

Miscellaneous

- Mrs. Simmons discussed how her classroom is utilizing the flexible seating. She and the teachers utilizing the seating have done research on most effective way to introduce the seating into the classrooms.
- PTO is having ongoing discussions about best way to support victims of Hurricane Harvey. Stay tuned for more details.
- If parents are interested in volunteering in their child's classroom or volunteering at any school activities a BCI is required. BCIs will be available during open house for a fee of \$5. Parents will need to be an ID. BCIs are valid for 4 years.
- Cub Scouts. Boys in grades 1 – 5 are eligible to join. Sign-ups will be on Tuesday, the 19th from 630-8pm at St. Christopher's.

PTO contact information:

Jocelyn Sherman: pocassetptopresident@gmail.com

Marissa Conley: pocassetptovicepresident@gmail.com

Jennifer Joslyn: pocassetptotreasurer@gmail.com

Stacey Ouellette: pocassetptosecretary@gmail.com

Meeting adjourned at 745pm

Minutes compiled by Stacey Ouellette, PTO secretary