

H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

8:47 a.m. Call to Order

Recording Secretary's Report

Mrs. Snyder reported that the January 9, 2017 minutes have been submitted and reviewed. A **MOTION** was made to approve the minutes, motion seconded and **APPROVED**.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Mrs. Mizhir reported on the following notes of thanks:

- A beautiful note from the organization "Oceans of Love" expressing gratitude for the approximate \$500 in gifts from the school giving tree.
- From the H.W. Mountz staff primary team to the PTA for funding recent workshops.
- From Ms. Sogluizzo to the PTA Mini Grant committee for approving her request.
- From Dr. Boccuti for the PTA funded mini-grants.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Marzullo reported that the Checking account balance is \$124,867.73 and the Savings account balance is \$4498.35 as of 2/21/17.

Dr. Boccuti's Report

- Dr. Boccuti thanked the PTA for supporting the many quality mini-grants put forth by H.W. Mountz teachers.
- BOE Policy
 - The current policy is out of date
 - Strauss Esmay Associates will assist the district in updating the policy.
 - Expected completion date – one year
- Curriculum
 - Curriculum will need to be provided for every grade level in every subject; currently is not. This will include an overview of the course as well as template lesson plans.
 - Spanish will be the first curriculum to be updated.
 - Dr. Boccuti asked the PTA to pause on introducing/funding new school programs until after the new curriculum has been completed.
 - Goal is for any new curriculum to be complete by September 1, 2017; to be posted on district website.
- School-Wide Behavior Supports
 - Two teams sent out of district (Lehigh, Freehold). Data was collected.
 - H.W. Mountz observed as being ahead in this area compared to other districts.
- The district website is continuing to be updated. Dr. Boccuti is working in conjunction with Mr. Soto on this.
- Spanish update – Manasquan
 - Dr. Boccuti has reached out to the Manasquan school superintendent to explore what options may be offered to our eight grade students.

- Manasquan has offered to provide a Spanish 2 teacher to tutor our eighth graders. To be paid by the Spring Lake BOE. Offering either a 4 or 6-week summer preparation course. Tutoring will be offered at MHS.
- A question was raised regarding the long-term Spanish substitute teacher, Ms. Cusinelli, and the hiring of a full-time teacher.
- Dr. Boccuti explained that Ms. Cusinelli has been hired as a full-time Spanish substitute teacher and the district is currently working to expedite her certification through Monmouth University, thus gaining a full-time staff member.
- Dr. Boccuti further explained the present difficulty in finding/hiring a full-time Spanish teacher in NJ.
- A comment was made suggesting an after-school Spanish program for 8th grade students, along with the use of the Virtual Learning Lab. Noted that summer is a difficult time for students to commit to a Spanish program.
- Dr. Boccuti explained that Ms. Cusinelli is assessing the eighth-grade students and he believes the students require an in-class teacher.
- Mrs. Walsifer recommended offering Spanish one night/week to eighth grade students, along with the utilization of the Virtual Learning Lab.
- Dr. Boccuti stated that Ms. Cusinelli would provide the best guidance for our students about Spanish.
- A question was raised if Ms. Cusinelli is in our district full time, or just “blocks of time”.
- Dr. Boccuti answered that the district employs Ms. Cusinelli for 20 full school days and after that time the county superintendent must approve additional days. Currently, she is here Monday-Friday for 20 consecutive days.

Mrs. Walsifer’s Report

- Curriculum – Mrs. Walsifer provided an overview of the curriculum changes that have occurred dating back to 2010 to the present time. In 2010 the standards within the district were revised to address common core.
- The curriculum was revised again in 2014.
- The computer crash that occurred during the previous school year deleted multiple grades’ curriculum.
- The future is looking optimistic, as the district is uploading documents to google with the assistance of Mr. Soto.
- NJ state dept. of Ed. has provided curriculum models for districts.
- Mrs. Walsifer thanked the PTA for providing needed resources as the district went through various curriculum changes.
- PARCC – testing begins on 4/3. Grades 3-5 will be tested first, followed by grades 6-8.
- NATE – a federal assessment involving fourth grade only will occur this Friday.
- Buddy Activities – occurring monthly. Activities include more interaction/relationship-building. Mrs. Walsifer asked the PTA for resources to bolster end of year buddy activities.

B.O.E. Liaison Update – Mrs. Valori

- Mrs. Valori reiterated the Spanish update and is excited at the prospect of improving and expanding the program.

- Mrs. Valori thanked Dr. Boccuti and the administration for addressing this problem and reaching out to higher learning institutions to expedite the process.
- The BOE approved Dr. Boccuti to move ahead with the concussion baseline testing.
- A question was raised regarding which students would be eligible for this testing with respect to athletics.
 - All students who participate in activities/athletics and all middle school students will be eligible.
- Dr. Boccuti explained the importance of the testing and indicated that it will eventually be state-mandated.

Committee Updates

Blood Drive – This Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9am-2pm in the APR. For appointments, please contact Colleen Panzini at panzinic@aol.com.

Someone Special Dance – Saturday, Apr. 1, from 5-8pm, Spring Lake Golf Club.

Mother-Son Event – Sunday, Apr. 9, 4-7pm, Spring Lake Golf Club.

Mini Grants

- Mrs. Flaherty provided an overview of mini-grants. Mini-grants are a 10k line item in the budget. Mrs. Flaherty listed examples of past mini-grants.
 - Ex. 3-D. printer mini-grant written by Mr. Destefano and Mrs. Pierce.
- Mrs. Walsifer offered to schedule a time for parents to view the 3-D printers and the Virtual Learning Lab.
- Mrs. Flaherty discussed the idea of the PTA providing a third mini-grant session, given the success of the first two this school year and the success of this year's Kitchen Tour.
- Mrs. Walsifer and Dr. Boccuti noted how the mini-grants immediately benefit both teachers and students, rather than having to put in a request for the following school year's budget.
- Mrs. Mawn and Mrs. Moran discussed the PTA budget and mini-grants.
- A discussion took place regarding the positive effect of mini-grants, the 2016-17 PTA budget and the ability for the PTA to allocate extra to mini-grants this school year.
- Mrs. Walsifer discussed the possibility of the PTA funding a demo Promethean table for pre-k and K grades; would bring needed technology to the early childhood grades.
- A further discussion took place regarding the 2016-17 and 2017-18 PTA budget and how the budget operates.

A **MOTION** was made to approve an additional 10k to mini-grants for the 2016-17 school year. Motion seconded and **APPROVED**.

Enrichments – Mrs. Lin.

- 21 students have enrolled in winter enrichments. \$2620 has been made, this profit going to the teachers running the enrichments.
- Mrs. Lin listed various spring enrichments that will be offered.

- During the summer, Camp Invention will be coming to the district for grades K-6. The STEM camp will run from 9-3:30 for 1 week, will be held at the school and lead by Mrs. Krebs, Mrs. Marcus-Feld and Mr. Destefano.

New Business

- Concussion baseline testing for Middle School – the PTA extends a huge thank you to Linda Degnan for introducing this important initiative to our school.
- Thank you to PTA member Jen Shea for organizing the extended care survey. A reminder was given that this survey rolled out yesterday via e-blast and everyone is encouraged to complete the two-minute survey.

PTA Committee Chair's needed for 2017-18:

- *Kitchen Tour Co-chairs needed plus the following Committee chairs: website, On-line ticket sales, ad sales, home descriptions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Submitted by: Emily Snyder, Recording Secretary