

Minutes

November 16,, 2020

Wanaque Elementary School

Called to order: 7:04pm

Welcome: Leanne Tully, President. Thank you to all for joining this evening.

Approval of minutes:

Shanna U, 2nd: Iman

Mr. Frick: Thank you to the PTA for the donated mums, always make the school look so nice. Thank you for picture day, turned out great and ran as smoothly as possible. We are trying very hard to keep things as normal as we can so we are trying to think of creative ways to hold as many events as possible. Next up is Thanksgiving baskets, we will not use kids as volunteers so we will need more parents.

As I am sure you have all heard by now, we had an unexpected drill today. Everything went really well, teachers and students were awesome. Learned that Mts. Puzzo and I should not run into the hall. It was an intense time but we have to have these drills so it was ok and everyone did what they were supposed to do. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us to discuss it, no one seemed too affected.

End of marking period 1 is upon us, if you are full virtual please remember to check grades and reach out to teachers with any questions.

Mrs. Puzzo: Assistant Principal: Thank you for the Great Pumpkin contest and ice cream party. The virtual students loved the treats too, thank you for coordinating all that too. The feedback was great. Things like this really help to keep the students both virtual and hybrid and the teachers connected. I am really trying to think of ways to have everyone involved more.

Parent teacher conferences went well, of course not ideal as we would love to be in person but as well as can be expected. We encourage you to ask questions as they come up - we can't think of everything.

LT: question, is there still a drill quota for the school?

Mr. Frick: Yes, we are required to have 2 drills per month. Still have to do a fire drill. Basically that is an announcement over the loudspeaker in the morning and we have a pretend drill. Later in the day we announce again and review the drill and any other recommendations we get from homeland security. We also have notification drills - this is an email that goes to the families to let them know about drills and then we compile a report of all the emails that were received and any that were kicked back etc.

We will need to approve the budget and also the taxes and audit are complete without issue.

Motion to pass the budget for 2020/2021:

Iman

2nd: Lisa B.

LT: As we said, even though a lot of our traditional activities have to be postponed this year, we are trying to create as normal a school year as possible. Shout out to Shannon Carpenter for all her help in scooping and delivering the ice cream for the great pumpkin contest.

We had a scarecrow scavenger hunt in lieu of the trunk or treat this year. This was in concert with Haskell. We had 20 participants, 15 from Wanaque and 5 from Haskell. It was a tough competition, the scarecrows were all great and we held the voting via google forms which was also new but turned out great. All participants got a goodie bag and the 3 winners got a halloween bucket with an amazon gift card.

We also had virtual pumpkin carving, not as good a turnout but still had some great entries and a lot of fun, winners also got goodies and gift cards.

We do have some new ideas brewing and of course welcome all ideas and suggestions. Fundraising remains very important. We understand that financial situations have changed for many and possibly gotten in the way of being able to support some fundraisers, but spreading the word will help. We will not have a tricky tray again this year and most likely will also not have the pocket book bingo and those are our largest money makers so we will need to be creative - again all ideas are welcome.

Kids Stuff books did not do well, Gertrude Hawk is also suffering compared to previous years - if we can help spread the word about the different fundraisers maybe more people will be able to help with one or two.

Membership - we are about at half, again this is a small way to support but it really helps. Ask your friends and family to become a member, it is \$10 and though we have to give some to the national PTA, we keep some as well and every little bit helps.

Also Amazon smile, this is an easy one, we all shop online and this just helps us get credit for the things we are buying anyway.

Bingo: Susan M. - just had our first virtual bingo and the kids had a blast and everyone got books from scholastic. More of these coming this year.

Bookfair: Virtual book fair is open and running, will go through 12/15. All orders are done online and there is free shipping for orders over \$25. PTA gets scholastic bucks for this and we use those to buy the end of year gifts and prizes throughout the year.

Boxtops: Iman: First submission went in 11/2 and we should get the first check by the end of December. Ms. Marion's class won the ice cream party. All you have to do is download the app and scan your receipts - be sure and credit your child's teacher. Actual box tops are still out there and are still being accepted, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Iman or any board member.

Class Parents: Please support your child's class parent by submitting the donation they requested, this is to offset the cost of parties or activities this year. We are asking class parents to assist with communication and getting information out to the families using the class FB pages or any means that works.

Dine to donate: these dates are coming. None scheduled for December, Kitchen and Beer Bar did not do that well but Maggie's was very successful, again, every little bit helps. These Dine to donates help the PTA raise funds and also help local restaurants stay afloat.

8th grade: Had our first parent meeting last week - trying to keep it all positive. Graduation pictures and fall retakes will be 1/21 & 22 and then graduation retakes will be early March - more information to come.

Holiday Shop: Shanna: Once again, all virtual shops are open now through 12/4. If you spend \$25 or more you get free shipping.

Thanksgiving Baskets: each grade will have a list to bring in. The boto nurse will then give us the information for the number of baskets. We always need turkeys and hams. We will be putting the baskets together 11/23 after school, since we are not going to ask middle schoolers to help we will need a few more parents so if you can come please help.

Q: Will we be updating the bulletin board?

A: Maybe after the new year, it is so nice and holding up well, but we can talk about it in January.

Check your Friday folders for forms and flyers for the PTA programs.

New business: We are working with Ms, Vogel the art teacher, to do a virtual painting activity where the kids will get a kit and then paint all together on zoom. We are hoping to do this some time in January when there is nothing to do and it is too cold to go out.

No meeting in December so happy holidays to all

Thank you everyone for coming, we will adjourn until 1/11 at 7pm.

Motion: Iman

2nd: Shanna

Adjourned until 1/11