

## **Conant Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes March 12, 2019**

Call to Order: 9:17 AM

Meeting held in Latchkey room

Introductions around the table

Minutes taken by Elissa F.

### **Guest Speakers - Nancy Lambert & Kim Hoke, Friends of the Bloomfield Township Library (FBTL)**

1. Ms. Lambert is the FBTL President, and Ms. Hoke is in charge of children's books.
2. Each 2nd Saturday of the month, Bloomfield Township library has a used Book Sale from donated books. Books cost \$0.50 or \$1. Each month there are 1,500-3,500 children's books of all levels. The Book Sale benefits the Bloomfield Township Library in that ~\$60,000 per year is given to the Library for additional programs outside the budget.
3. FBTL is wondering about partnering with Conant PTO in order to increase the number of books in each classroom, at a reasonable cost. Ideas include:
  - a. Gifting teachers with books
  - b. Giving each teacher a gift certificate from FBTL (can be made in any amount)
  - c. Having the PTO give each teacher a budget for books from the FBTL Book Sale & reimbursing them (a receipt can be given)
  - d. Since the sale is on Saturdays and many of the teachers do not live in the district, it was inquired about having a pre-sale to decrease commuting time, perhaps the Friday afternoon before the sale, after school, for the teachers to shop - Ms. Hoke will check on this possibility for one of the months - Lisa Maddens is interested in helping to run a teacher pre-sale

January meeting minutes were approved.

Nikole S first motion to approve, Kendra D seconded.

### **Principal's Report**

Mr. Russo was not in attendance today.

### **President's Report**

1. PTOC Report - PTOC met on Feb. 22. Rob Glass (superintendent) spoke.
  - a. Concerning snow days: Conant has had 9 (including the power outage day), rest of the district 8. The district will apply to get the extra 3 days waived. Dr. Glass did not expect that this school year would be extended. Due to safety concerns of driving (esp the high schoolers on the roads in bad weather), the snow days off this winter are likely a "new normal". The district has not done late starts on these weather days due to difficulty predicting when the weather/roads will improve and also logistical difficulties for families with late start - but would potentially consider in the future if a strong interest was expressed.

- b. District is considering a later start time for BHHS, beginning in 2020. Not clear how this might affect start times for the other schools.
  - c. Expect the district calendar for 2019 within 4-6 weeks of the meeting.
- 2. Nomination Process for 2019-2020 PTO Executive Board: A nominating committee will be formed, which will then put forth a slate of candidates, 1 or more for each EB position. If interested in nominating someone for the nominating committee or an EB position, then email the PTO gmail account. Elections will be at the May PTO meeting.
- 3. Directory Update - Extra families who have enrolled will be added on a supplement. Josh will finish this in the next few weeks. They will also be added on the PTO website, unless they opted out of the directory.
- 4. Kindergarten Orientation is tomorrow
  - a. Volunteers are still needed.
  - b. The orientation was moved to earlier in the calendar year to try to get more children registered earlier for school, and to give people a chance to look at the school prior to private school enrollment.
  - c. Overall, concerns that it was planned late. Also many concerns regarding the current kindergarteners - that they are unnecessarily starting school late (at 11) instead of being taken care of some other way within the school during the orientation (in previous years, current kindergarteners were gathered in consolidated classrooms). Concerns were expressed that some current kindergarteners will come to school tomorrow at the regular time & need to be cared for, that parents are having to take extra time off of work and/or are being inconvenienced, and that some current kindergarteners will just take the entire day off of school.
  - d. PTO info sheet will be given to the parents at the orientation
  - e. Nikole's messages for the parents:
    - i. Read the Friday email newsletter for PTO info
    - ii. Follow Conant PTO on FaceBook!
    - iii. A parent-led FaceBook page for the incoming class is a great way to spread messages about what is happening at the school, and to arrange group play-dates, etc.

### **Parents' Night Out**

Total net for playground >\$15,000

Pre-bidding 'got the ball rolling' and raised \$5000 before PNO - some items sold solely due to pre-bidding

Expenses include: 5% charge for online pre-bidding (\$250), signs, teacher experience costs (dinner, bowling)

Motion for PTO to budget/donate \$800 to cover teacher experience costs

Nikole 1st motion to approve, Jenny Z 2nd - passed unanimously.

To consider having a PNO next year solely as a social event (not as a fundraiser)

### **Playground Update**

Nikole discussing with Lance Shipman (the vendor) re: different options for staged/split installation, in order to get part of it installed this school year, with the monies already raised.  
4 areas: main play structure, new swings, spinner for lower elem, balls/equipment  
Main play structure - "Geoplex" is available now & in stock at a lower price (\$3700+) due to an over-order.

Motion to go with the Geoplex - 1st Nikole; seconded by Camille

Mr. Honke gave a list of equipment to Nikole for balls, jump ropes, etc.

Amy Z indicated that Jersey Mikes had verbally committed to subs for the community build

**Variety Show** - March 22nd, 6:30-8:30, need to put it on the marquee

**School Supply Kits** - Katie Izzo leading this initiative (not in attendance)

**GET (Global Education Team)** - no update, tabled to next month

**Fun Run** - led by Jenny Z & Ella W. Thank you!

Next PTO meeting April 9th at 7 pm.

PTO Committee sign-up sheets will be available at the April and May meetings.

Adjourned at 11:06.