

General Membership Meeting
January 3, 2019

PRESENT: A ADDAI, N ADDAI, N GILBERT, J MATTHEWS, J BROWN, S BROWN, N MORRIS, R GUTIERREZ, K ALBRECHT, S BRUNO, R FREED, D MCKEON, T MARK, P DOGUE, C ECKLER, V ECKLER, N GROGAN, K KHAN, V SOOKDEO, K HILL, S FISHER, A GILROY, S GIORDANI, C DAVIS

Plaza Staff: M GRAY, J GRAHAM, M GILBERT

CALL TO ORDER: Susan Fisher at 7:14

Pledge of Allegiance, Emergency Exits and procedure, no smoking, parking rules (*do not park on the east side of Rockville Dr. when dropping off in the morning or picking up in the afternoon. No one is allowed to pull into the teacher parking lots. Please drive safely and slowly around the school obeying traffic rules. Please remember that if you are late to drop your student off at school, you must go to the front entrance on Seaman Avenue. We are all concerned for the safety of our children.*) We would appreciate if all cell phones are switched to vibrate for the course of this meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Troy Mark
Balance of Accounts as of 1/3/19
Balance in General Checking: \$19,124.70
Balance in Savings: \$5,977.44
Balance in 5th Grade Events Checking: \$15,730.10

Question was raised regarding discrepancy with fifth grade accounts balanced. Further discussion and resolution to follow.

PRESENTATION BY DR. TRISH ECKARDT – assistant Professor of Education at Molloy College.

Minutes for the last PTA meeting, on 10/29/18 were posted to the website. No corrections – Minutes are accepted and posted as is.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT:

Still in need of chairs for the following committees:

Memorial Day Parade
Mother's Day/Father's Day Boutique
Supermarket Bingo
Math Night and Think Fun Family Game Night
Student Contests

If you are interested, please speak to Chanel or Susan for more information.

Upcoming Events:

Supermarket Bingo – 1/11/19 @ 7:00
Mathnasium Game Night – 1/25/19 @ 7:00

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chinese Auction: Myrlene Scott
Fundraiser held October 29, 2018

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Chinese Auction successful. We have raised \$1,335, exceeding our goal of \$1,000.

Box Tops: Chimzy Ugbala

Fundraiser: Ongoing throughout the year

We are happy to announce that we have a total of \$112.60 worth of box tops submissions -submitted 10/17/2018. We have not received the payments yet. According to the website, pay out earnings are usually done twice yearly in December and April. I am not sure how pay outs are made but the PTA will be informed when payouts are made. Box tops is an ongoing collection activity to generate funds for our school. So please constant reminders are to be sent out.

Reflections: Chimzy Ugbala

We are happy to announce that we received entries for all categories (Dance, Music, Film, Visual Arts, and Literature). Of the 14 entries received 11 advanced. We are excited about this and we hope that our student's art works go far.

Restaurant Day: Nicole Morris

November 6, 2018 – Restaurant Day at “That No Good Burger Joint” raised \$100 with 15% of proceeds donated. Sales from Plaza families were honored with 15% proceeds to PTA.

Membership Report: Kelly Hill

Up to 230 members; goal is 240. Please encourage community/family members to join! Check MemberHub to join and for deals

Cultural Events: Kelly Hill

Adventures in Reading assembly will be Monday, 1/7/19

PARP: Kelly Hill

PARP will be during month between winter and spring break.

District Council PTA Report: Doris McKeon

Bylaws were passed.

Not enough orders for Baldwin Then and Now books, so price jumped from original quote – not sure if or when there will be another sale.

MS and HS have combined Founder's Day – if you have a student in HS or MS, consider attending; always a pleasant evening with raffle baskets

You will be receiving flyer for Camp Waklow Scholarship; 3 scholarships are given to 4th or 5th grade Baldwin girl to attend sleep away camp in NH for 3 weeks (\$475 value – 1 gets full tuition, 2 get reduced tuition)

January 23rd reception for students who submitted entry for Reflections

Minutes from most recent meeting will be shared and posted to Plaza PTA website when they are available

5th grade events: Vicmarie Sookdeo

January 19 is fundraiser at Brokerage Comedy Club

TEACHER'S REPORTS: Mrs. Gilbert (reading teacher)

Grade 1

Reading/Writing: beginning nonfiction reading and writing “how to” books

Social Studies: learning about character and diversity through study of Dr. Martin Luther King

Science: exploring Google Earth beginning at Plaza School and zooming out to locate ponds, creeks, lakes, bays, oceans, and to study conservation

Math: using ten to help with subtraction; making models, solving story problems and equations

Upcoming project on Penguins to be done at home – plan ahead and do a little at a time

Mrs. Sussman's Class

Raised \$527 in snack sales and donations over a two day period to shop on Amazon for an adopted family in District 75.

Student's selected toys, books, and clothes for the family of three: a single mom and her two disabled sons. Students sold

snacks, counted profits, wrapped presents, and packaged them with cards to be donated. Due to everyone's generosity, they were able to make the Christmas of a family in District 75 especially happy.

Grade 3

Math: revisiting multiplication, learning how commutative and distributive properties to help learn facts with factors of 6, 7, 8, and 9. Teachers strongly suggest that parents practice basic multiplication facts at home to increase fact fluency.

Reading: beginning fictional character unit of study

Science: learning about forces and simple machines.

Writing: publishing and sharing informational books

Grade 4

STEAM: finishing up; had a great time designing solar ovens that would provide a more environmentally conscious way of cooking in parts of Africa. The best part was when they got to eat their s'mores

Math: continuing to work on multi-digit multiplication and division problems using the standard algorithm. It is very important that the students study basic multiplication/division facts so these problems are easier to work through

Reading/Writing: researching different types of extreme weather, which will lead to a persuasive piece of writing

Grade 5

Math: beginning a new unit on fractions. We will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. Try to point out how you use fractions in the real world.

Reading/Writing: incorporating science unit into reader's & writer's workshop; continuing to research and gather notes for informational writing pieces. We have been working in Google Docs to share our notes and are looking forward to publishing our work. This week is last week of STEAM.

Social Studies: finished unit on Westward Expansion and will soon be studying slavery in America and the Civil War
Student Council

Recently hosted 2 holiday spirit wear days. Pajama Day raised \$200. Money will be donated to the Pajama Program, which is an organization that donates new pajamas and books to children in need.

Holiday Hat Day: raised \$200, which will be donated to a local charity chosen by Student Council in the coming weeks.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Encourages families to come to Founder's Day dinner in February to honor parents and teachers who

Next Wednesday board meeting will be held at Plaza

Tomorrow will be Spelling Bee at Plaza

New Team Orchid Facebook page has been created, but weren't able to migrate old members; consider following the page to get a feel for what is happening at the school; now including some video work; you can also follow Team Orchid on the website through the "Plaza Newsroom" page; encouraging students to be not only writers but audience

Site Based Team: two years ago fundraised and raised awareness for different cancers. This year each grade level has been asked to identify a charity/cause that can tie into curriculum so they can continue to fundraise and be activists at Plaza. Teachers will be choosing a charity as well as Mr. Gray to serve as role models.

Entering season of testing: open door policy regarding tests, opting out – Mr. Gray will do his best to answer honestly to help you make decisions that work for you and your family

Grade 4 and 5 students at Plaza will be taking state math tests on computers this year (districts have been given choice – we chose math to avoid putting students at disadvantage on ELA because of typing skills)

Member discussion re: testing/technology

Ms. Beck – hoping for her to return at end of January – she had surgery and is recovering

March – will come prepared with more updates and answers heading into testing season

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Honorary Life Committee:

We are looking for volunteers to sit on the honorary life committee. Founders day is on February 12th and at this time we will present this award to the chosen individuals. We are looking for volunteers to meet and choose people who have earned this distinction. (3 volunteers found)

Nominating Committee:

The executive board met and we need two more volunteers to join Kelly Hill, Tricia Wilder, and Christina Eckler on the nominating committee. Vicmarie Sookdeo will act as an alternate. The nominating committee will meet to discuss and choose the 2019-2020 slate of officers to be voted on by the membership at our election PTA meeting. This is an important committee. We will open the floor to nominations right now. Once the nominations are finished, we will have a ballot vote to elect the members of the committee.

Nominated: Rachel Freed (from General Membership)

Nominated: Judith Matthews (from General Membership)

Elected by show of hands

Thank you to:

Doris McKeon and Khem Khan for a very fun and festive Holiday Breakfast

Kristen Klemme for organizing the bake sales during the Parent Teacher Conferences

Nacole Grogan for organizing a very fun Brunch and Paint event at Muse Paintbar. We hope to do more events like this in the future.

Everyone that went to the NYS PTA Convention in November and represented Plaza and advocated on behalf of our students.

Rhonda Simmons for organizing our Giving Tree and Plaza Cares and helping us to give back to those in our community, and for the Miss Chocolate fundraiser.

Chanel Hyer for bringing Chess Nuts to school.

Please make sure that you have signed in on the attendance sheet. Please make sure to check the website often. We are updating it with reports and upcoming events. It's a great way to make sure that you don't miss any information. If you have any questions or concerns at any time please do not hesitate to email us. Our next meeting will be our Founder's Day celebration on 2/12. We really hope that everyone can come and celebrate the founding of PTA with us. Thank you for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32

Minutes submitted by Amy Gilroy, PTA Recording Secretary