

Cunniff School PTO Meeting

November 13, 2018

Attendance

Lee Haley, PTO Co-President
Milton Contreras, PTO Co-President
Jen Nicholson, Secretary
Tina Brisson, PTO Co-Treasurer
Mena Ciarlone, Cunniff Principal
Joseph Lampman, P.E., Health & Wellness Coordinator K-12
Will Stirling
Jackie Airasian
Carolyn Pipitone
Melanie St. Pierre
Georgia Santander

Principal's Update

The design meeting last week drew a big crowd of 47 people. The architects went over the Cunniff design via a presentation and asked for feedback. Additionally, teachers are in the middle of parent-teacher conferences. Teachers are also in the process of scheduling traveling Museum of Science in-house field trips (the PTO is helping cover the costs of these presentations).

Guest Speaker – Mr. Joseph Lampman

This is Mr. Lampman's fifth year in the district. This past year, P.E. and Health merged with Wellness. Since coming here, he has realized that we do not formally teach Health in the elementary curriculum. This year, he is going to create a working group composed of staff, parents (hopefully one from each building), and Ms. Phelan (Lowell Principal) to help figure out how we can best teach Health to elementary teachers. Responsive Classroom addresses social and emotional aspects, which is great, but there is a lot more we could cover at this age group. Lee Haley asked about what types of topics would be addressed. Mr. Lampman answered that he would like to formalize more about nutrition (it is touched upon in P.E.), but the most effective type of health instruction is skills-based in terms of substance abuse and wellness topics in general. It is most important to give kids the skills necessary to make healthy choices as opposed to just teaching content. We can also draw from the national frameworks that are more updated than the state frameworks that we're working with that came out in 1999. The committee will try to determine if there would be a separate class or if it would be covered under the P.E. umbrella (Mr. Tempesta taught Health at his previous school). Time is a commodity, but all options will be considered. The timeframe is hopefully that it will be implemented in some capacity in the next school year. Concerns regarding

vaping at the middle and high school levels were mentioned and this is something that can be addressed. Mr. Lampman asked parents what their opinion on the 5th grade “Boys and Girls Nights Out.” This past year, there was about 50% attendance rate. The format of these events (which is put on by the school nurses) is a presentation by a Harvard Vanguard doctor regarding puberty. Mr. Lampman is wondering if that sort of delivery should be provided within the school day. The way it was presented was in a voluntary nature, but it could be better attended if held at each school. Some parents who had attended in past years brought up that the videos were outdated, but generally there was positive feedback and children were more willing to talk about these topics and ask parents questions following the event. Children need a venue to be able to ask questions and be provided with information.

Upcoming Events

Scholastic Book Fair – The dates we’re looking at now are November 28, 29 and 30 and one day over the weekend (December 1 or 2). Volunteers are needed to help work it. We could possibly open the book fair the night of the 27th for evening conferences.

Winter Social (Feb 8) – A sign-up sheet for joining the committee led by Carm Bruncati

Butterfly Project – Funds were approved.

New Business

New Sign for front of school – Kelly Marini got a quote for a new sign (the vinyl one that was there was torn). Approval of the sign was granted. A question was brought if the sign could say “Welcome” in multiple languages. Lee will reach out to the company to ask. Will asked if a digital rotation could be used since vinyl could continue to rip and we could utilize it to display more information.

PTO Presidents for next year – Lee will be moving on after her second year and Milton is taking on another coaching role and will not be able to continue with another year. Jackie is happy to step up, but a Co-President is needed. Tina requested that we put the word out for a Co-Treasurer to work alongside Carrie next year.

Liability insurance – To hold events at the school, the PTO now needs to hold insurance. The Hosmer got a policy that costs \$370/annually through AIM Client Services.

Cunniff School Discount Cards – Karyn Ramshaw is willing to take the lead. It’s a one-time cost for a coupon book essentially in card form. Questions we would like answers to: Is it a one-time use for the percentage off or can it be used multiple times? What would we need to pay up front? Is there an app available?

Spelling Bee (Watertown Community Foundation) – WCF is taking back the Spelling Bee after regrouping following the end of the Watertown Education Foundation that

used to run the event. If we want a cut of the spelling bee profits, we need to write a grant to WCF. We usually make over \$3,000 from this event. The format for the event will not change. It is usually held the last Sunday of January.

Fun Run 2019 – We would like to hold this event again next year.

Chuck Dickinson – World in Watertown – He would like to come to the PTO meeting next month to discuss what they offer and provide more information.

Fundraisers

Box Top Contest – ongoing (Lauren will start the formal contest in the near year)

Police escort raffle – Drawing will take place on November 21st (all tickets are due on the 19th)

5th Grade Update

Bake Sale made \$1,000 on Election Day and \$240 was raised at the Halloween Party.

Events Recap

Fun Run – Cunniff raised the most of the three elementary schools and we will be receiving the trophy tomorrow.

Halloween Party – \$1,700 profit

Picture Day – Make up day is December 14th

Meadow Farms – Orders are arriving November 20th (roughly \$2,800 in sales so far)

Financial Snapshot

Total Raised: \$21,316

Left to Goal: \$3,683

In Reserves: \$6,693.19

Next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2018.