



**MASON
ELEMENTARY**

**RESPECTFUL
RESPONSIBLE
READY**

Date: 2/21/2024

In-Person Meeting w/Zoom Option

Time: 9:00AM

Meeting Highlights

Total Attendees: 11 in-person, 6 via Zoom

Welcome (Jennifer Robsinson, President)

- Welcomed everyone after last big event, Small and Tall Dance, and went to International Night Report since Arwyn had to head out early.
- Navigating the best avenues for communication to reach parents remains our biggest hurdle. Parents are becoming more familiar with ParentSquare, our school's biggest form of communication.
 - Mr. Wilson posting for PTA on ParentSquare helps reach the most parents. Mr. Wilson noted that parents can choose their settings on ParentSquare so sometimes they only will receive 1 notification per week potentially missing important PTA related info.
 - Flyers are still effective, pending teachers get them to Friday folders on time.
 - Room parents are also key to helping spread info. The only issue noted is not all parents give their contact info to room parents making it more difficult to communicate.
- Volunteers needed for Ms. Solano's big language arts project: sorting, laminating and cutting an entire curriculum. Volunteers are needed today 11-1 and again Friday same time. A sign up genius has been sent out if any parents have time to volunteer.

Mr. Wilson Report

- Ramping up for district testing for the older grades on March 11th.
- New carpet in the entire school will begin installation on March 11th and will continue throughout the Saturday after spring break before school is back in. It has been 17 years since the carpets have been replaced, nodding to a wonderful upkeep job by Mr. Ramon and his staff.
- The county EES survey has been sent out and the district is urging all parents to fill it out with their input.
- APD will meet this Friday the 23rd.
- International Night has been moved to Thurs. March 21st due to a scheduling conflict with Hull's rising 6th graders parent meeting.

Vice President's Report (Laura Buchanan)

- At this point of the year, member numbers have become stagnant. We can use current members to the best of their ability to get more members to join for the next school year.
- Changed platforms from Memberhub to Totem, which could potentially cause more communication confusion.

Treasurer's Report (Bonnie Tuggle)

- Had several big things paid out last month: purchased a \$4000 poster printer plus supplies for the teachers and school to use for learning aids. Asked Mr. Pence to make a sign to put near the carpool lane thanking the PTA for the purchase. Usually big ticket items can be seen by parents (playground equipment, marquee, etc.) so a sign letting parents know what was bought with fundraising was an important visual.
- Small and Tall raised \$1783.83, over 3 times the anticipated budget.
- Teacher grants and Lion Stomp incentives were paid out- teacher grants allowed teachers up to \$50 per classroom that teachers could purchase and be reimbursed by the PTA.
 - Lion Stomp incentives: whatever each class raised for Lion Stomp, the teacher got back 10% of what was raised. Most teachers took advantage of both incentives, Bonnie will reach out again to ones who haven't.
- Paid incorporation fee.
- Report follows minutes.

Committee Reports

- **International Night (update provided by Arwyn Raina)**
 - As noted by Mr. Wilson, the date for International Night has been moved from March 14th to March 21st due to a Hull MS rising 6th graders parent meeting.
 - Would like to go back to pre-Covid International Night- move back inside the building with tables lining the halls to represent different countries and ethnicities. Can also use the stage in the cafeteria to cater better to performances. Don't have to plan around weather if moved back inside.
 - Would need parent and PTA volunteers for set up, break down, and volunteers to bring in dishes and head a table representing different countries.
 - Goal is for enough food to be brought in for everyone attending International Night.
 - Arwyn noted she will do the sign up genius going to her email so she can better manage volunteers, food, performance sign ups, etc.
 - Will begin to accept parent sign ups the 1st week of March.
 - Flyer will be sent out in Friday folders and on ParentSquare.
- **Yearbook (update provided by Tara Carter)**
 - Still accepting baby pictures for 5th graders. So far about 80 families have sent in photos, last year was around 120. Having communication issues getting parents to send in baby photos by deadline. Mr. Wilson noted he will send reminder out to 5th grade only for last push of photos.
 - Send pictures of anything school related (Lion Stomp, Spooky Dance, Trunk or Treat, etc.) to masonespictures@gmail.com.
- **Small and Tall Ball (update provided by Julie McKevitt)**
 - Everyone noted this dance was the best yet. Noted made a little less than last year's dance (only by \$100). Charged \$8 per kid this year and last year was \$12/adult-child couple. Jennifer noted this was confusing for parents and had less attendance last year so switched gears this year and charged students only. In previous years, the

school wouldn't make any money on dances so turning any profit is beneficial for the PTA and school.

- Bonnie noted that she gave wristbands to all kids who attended the dance to grasp a number of kid attendees- gave 274 wristbands which was more than the Spooky Dance.
 - Jennifer also noted to Mr. Wilson that some flyers for the dance didn't go home until the week after the dance, need to make sure he mentions to teachers that flyers in mailboxes need to go home in student Friday folders that same Friday and not the week after.
 - Had an overall great volunteer turnout. Paper chains created by PTA and members of the community used for decor was the length of the Empire State Building.
 - Wants to create a survey for board members on what we could improve on next year. Can send any feedback to julieamckevitt@gmail.com
- **Mason Carnival (update provided by Nikki Simmons)**
 - Carnival will be in May. Nikki is getting quotes for entertainment, should have done by this Friday.
 - Talked about renting a grill and having any APD volunteers make hot dogs and hamburgers to sell instead of getting a food truck. Bigger profit and more appealing to kids. Mr. Wilson mentioned that cafeteria staff needs community hours so some of them may be willing to volunteer to grill also. Will also do cotton candy machine, popcorn and possibly snow cones (mentioned having Jeremiah's come out).
 - Call for volunteers will be after International Night.
 - Also asked Mr. Wilson if he would be interested in doing a dunk tank with any other teachers or staff, and he of course said yes.
- **Hospitality (update provided by Christina Volling)**
 - Had a teacher luncheon provided by Frontera. Teachers actually got to sit together and enjoy lunch while staff helped cover classes during lunch in cafeteria. Received some hand written thank you notes, which is always so much appreciated.
 - Teachers also appreciated their giftcards. Christina writes each one and gives a giftcard to what each teacher wanted and they were all so grateful.
- **Room Parent (update provided by Lauren Rogers)**
 - Lauren sent out an email to room parents on behalf of Ms. Solano asking for any parent volunteers to help her laminate and cut an entire language arts curriculum. Parents can respond directly to Megan Saxleby or Ms. Solano herself.
 - She also received an email this week about a parent inquiring about teacher appreciation week. Jennifer responded with that usually teacher appreciation week falls on a week in May which in the past has confused parents between teacher appreciation gifts and end of year gifts, also vs. staff appreciation week too. Will get with PTA and come up with a cleaner system and timeline for staff and teacher appreciation weeks.
 - Lauren also had an idea to help better facilitate dividing out room parent duties- to assign a room parent lead per grade level. Including a room parent lead meeting at times throughout the school year. Those room parent leads would then pass on

important school related and PTA information to their associated room parents and parents of classes.

- **Cultural Arts (update provided by Lauren Rogers)**
 - -**March 12** will be the Center for the Puppetry Arts presentation of international puppetry for grades 3-5 in the little gym.
<https://puppet.org/programs/international-puppetry-presentation/>
 - -**March 25** (to be confirmed shortly with Lisa) Piccadilly puppets will be coming to put on a puppet show Cat & Mouse Tails for grades k-2 in the library.
<https://piccadillypuppets.org/shows-workshops/shows/cat-and-mouse-tales/>

- **5th Grade Fun Day (update provided by Jennifer Robinson, President)**
 - Fundraiser is almost over and only halfway to goal to be able to go on a field trip. So now asking parents for normal fee of \$25 per 5th grader.
 - Some parents have returned money and t-shirt forms- would like to have t-shirts made for 5th grade visit to Hull.
 - Will know after this week if they can confirm the field trip if enough money is raised.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM