

TAOTS PTO
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 15, 2016
Auditorium – 8:30 a.m
Minutes recorded by Anna Messina

- I. Call to order 8:36 a.m. by Co-Presidents Leslie Tulumello and Sandy Chum-Wu.
- II. **Prior Meeting Minutes**: November 17, 2016 meeting minutes were read by Leslie Tulumello and were approved by a vote of: 20 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions
- III. **President's Report**: (Sandy Chum-Wu)
 - Announced an upcoming T-Shirt design contest. There will be a 3-4 week submission period. All submissions will be up for a vote. Winner will receive 4 free T-shirts and T-shirts in the winning design will be up for sale. More information will be coming home soon.
- IV. **Principal's Report**: presented by Sandro Grancaric
 - Explained the events around the school evacuation yesterday. Just before dismissal, fire alarms rang and the school evacuated. Students proceeded to Seth Low, which is our evacuation site. Soon after, we were given the "all clear" to re-enter the building. Everything went well and everyone was safe. The issue was that a motor in the elevator was smoking in the basement. All was fine this morning.
 - Blue Ribbon conference in Florida - some school staff attended and presented on our school's enrichment clusters. They received great feedback from the people they presented to and may be invited back to present again. They learned great strategies that we can implement in our school. Some examples included: enrichment clusters across grades and ideas for new clusters.
- V. **Treasurer's Report** (Irina Furmanskaya)
 - Fund balance as of November 30, 2016 \$45,327.
 - November fundraisers did very well.
 - Bake Sale: Net profit over \$1,400
 - Pie Sale: Net profit over \$1,400
 - Yankee Candle: Net profit over \$2,000
 - November 30, 2016 financials were approved by a vote of: 20 yes, 0 no, 0 absentions
 - Co-presidents spoke about Direct Appeal donations at about \$3,000 year to date. Parents expressed an interest in receiving a written description

of this appeal and were assured that a notice is being worked on and will be sent home soon.

- Proposed Expenditures:
 - \$300 per year towards perfect attendance prizes (3x per year, 2 prizes for each) - Approved by vote of: 14 in favor, 4 no, 2 abstentions
 - About \$275, 3 times a year for a class trip (probably bowling) for the class with the best percentage of attendance on the day before and after a break. - Approved by a vote of: 13 in favor, 3 no, 4 abstentions.

Parents expressed concerns about using these types of rewards for attendance. There were concerns about parents sending kids to school sick. There was a suggestion to perhaps gear prizes to something needed in the classroom.

- Box Tops - (Philip Sum) The PTO would like to throw a pizza party for the class collecting the most Box Tops from January 1-February 28, 2017. Class collections will be tallied by class and posted on the PTO website. Please label all box top baggies with class number. Notices will be sent home and will be sent to teachers to explain. Approved by a vote of: 20 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

VI. Fundraising (Leslie Tulumello)

- Yankee Candle sales were not almost \$7,000 as reported at the last meeting. The accurate income amount is \$5,495, with a net profit of over \$2,000. Online orders are still available until 12/31 for direct shipment to the customer's home.
- Barclays - We were not able to secure enough seats for the Nets game in February but are moving forward with the Barnum and Bailey's Circus on February 26 at 11am. Tickets will be in the \$30 price range. Money will be due mid-January. More details will follow.
- Question about the Amazon rewards. Use the link on the PTO website to lead to Amazon site where purchases earn money for the school. Average income of \$200/month.
- Gala - survey will be going out after the meeting to gather opinions on possible venue change from the Rex Manor to the Dyker Beach Golf Course and possible dates of Friday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) in the evening or Saturday, March 18 in the afternoon. Price per ticket would be \$75 at this venue. Larger space at the Dyker Beach golf course, parking lot, overlooks the golf course. Menus are similar at the two venues. About a \$25 increase in ticket price with Dyker Beach venue.
 - Conversations around the venue led to opinions on concerns that higher ticket price might detract people from attending and on how Dyker Beach is a more inspiring venue for this "very important" event.

- A parent suggested the idea of a business-sponsored table. PTO presidents will consider this when creating tiers of ticket prices.
- Susan Chan-Olsen suggested the need for a committee for the Gala and feels that parents need to be reached out to once again about volunteering and signing up.
- Parent expressed interest in being part of the planning as well.
- Co-presidents explained that the survey being sent out is an attempt at getting everyone involved. The PTO will be assembling a group of parents to work on the Gala. The reason the PTO hasn't setup such a committee yet is because we are tackling events in chronological order and being the initial committee, we feel the need to be very fluent in the options being presented. We want to utilize parent help efficiently.
- Nicole Devivo explained that Class Parents will also be greatly involved and will attend an upcoming meeting about the Gala.

VII. **New Business and Questions**

- Parent expressed concern regarding outdoor recess being cancelled this week. Mr. Grancaric explained that reasons for outdoor recess being cancelled are inclement weather and administration taking time to reevaluate safety issues at recess. Melissa Appelbaum will send a notice out with further explanation.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.