



JAMES MORRIS SCHOOL

PTO MINUTES

11/4/2014

Attendees: Shannon Collins, Lois Silver, Billie Jean Sideris, Diana McIntosh, Lisa Galinski, Beth Lovallo, Alison Storm, Laurie Bernardi, Denise Weik, Laura Crane, Jessy Barone, Margarget Coe

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Jessy Barone, President

Treasurer Report: Current balance: \$10,509.35. Robin Moore, storyteller paid \$875 and approximately \$100 for Mr. Moore's book signing reception. A-Z Directory needs to be paid. Margaret Coe, Treasurer is waiting for statement. Billie Jean handed to her at this meeting. Book Fair: \$3,187.98. JMS earned \$1,593.98 in scholastic books and a bonus of \$318.78. There is a balance of \$250 in scholastic books that need to be used before they expire from last Spring's bookfair. PTO paid \$250 outdoor paint. Pie Fundraising with MCM fundraising profit: \$1,958.40.

Scholastic book Fair: Extremely successful book fair! Thank you to all the volunteers. JMS accepted Scholastic bucks rather than cash. Total: \$1,593.98 and a bonus of \$318.78. We also have \$250 scholastic bucks to use from last Spring's book Fair. The PTO discussed purchasing books and software for the classrooms as well as books for the Silent Auction in the Spring. Books may also be purchased for Spelling Bee prizes.

Enrichment: Robin Moore Storyteller was hosted by Barbara Connery at her home to save JMS money for housing. Thank you Barbara! All students enjoyed the storytelling workshops during the day. Mr. Moore presented to the teachers after school and motivated all involved. Following dinner at Mrs. Connery's home, Mr. Moore returned to the school to present storytelling to parents/families. PTO hosted a book signing reception in the café following.

A-Z Directory: Billie Jean received the invoice 10/30. Due to the new FERPLA Act (privacy), we must have a signed form annually. Billie Jean received a lot of telephone calls from concerned parents but she was able to work with everyone and out of 107 families we have 94 families signed up for the directory. Billie Jean spoke to the PTO about the possibility of selling ads to local businesses on the A-Z directory site. If we

decide to sign up for this with A-Z then we receive \$75 off and 10% off Ad sales and 50% software fee. Billie Jean announced that she will retire her responsibility of the A-Z directory.

School Pictures: Parents expressed during meeting that they were still unhappy with the photos and ordering process. Many parents were not happy that they had to purchase an entire package rather than buy ala cart. They were informed that if they purchased a package they will then have the opportunity to purchase ala cart. Many parents suggested going local. One parent suggested hiring a photographer to photograph children while they are playing on the playground. "on-location photographer."

Girl Scouts: Officers approved funding \$250 in paint for troop #40197 (6th graders) to paint a 36 ft USA map on the pavement/playground. The PTO purchased a USA stencil a couple of years ago. The girl scouts were looking to leave their mark at JMS and willing to donate community hours. Fran O'Dell purchased the paint at \$25 gallon for the project. Troop #40197 will purchase the brushes, rollers, pans, etc. Receipt needed from Fran.

Lyman Orchard Pie fundraiser: Kristen Edwards ran another successful fundraiser. We sold 306 pies for a total of \$4,896 and a profit of \$1,958. Thank you Kristen and all volunteers.

Square One Art: Alison Storm ran another successful fundraiser! All art projects were completed and orders taken. Online orders worked really well this year and orders can still be placed now. Final profit is unknown because the fundraiser is still open. Some parents were unhappy with the restrictions that were placed on the art work. Students were instructed that they had to draw circles or they had to draw an animal, etc. Mrs. Sweet has kindly accepted this fundraiser into her classroom and must incorporate sq one art into her curriculum. Parents were suggesting next year to have the art work be completed at the end of the day with room parents. ??

Volunteer forms & responses: PTO received many volunteer forms! Margaret will make a spreadsheet.

Food Drive in lieu of teacher gifts: Teachers have once again agreed. PTO will collect food, cash and gift cards. PTO will give teachers a card with each families name that donated.

Candy Cane Lane: Kids shopping days will be held Dec 2-5th in the media room. PTO will set up prior to Thanksgiving break and students will have a browsing day Dec 1st. Lisa Galinski and Shannon Collins have volunteered to help. We have a lot of inventory from last year and will only need to purchase items for Dad's/Grandpa, etc. Salli has closing inventory.

Christmas stocking donations: Jessy has been in contact with Susan Jean Faver at the Morris Town Hall. Susan is obtaining names right now for the stockings. Students will be asked to donate an item for the stockings.

Town Christmas/holiday events: Tree lighting and visits with Santa are scheduled for November 30th. Brian Leonard, Recreation Director contacted Jessy Barone. PTO discussed today in length. There were many ideas such as: selling soup, hiring a food truck, cupcake truck, Amanda Bakes, carriage rides, making frames for Santa photos, etc. Bottom line: PTO does not have enough notice, the town event is not a school event and we do not have extra funds this year due to an auction year.

Open Floor: Vice president Position open. PTO read job duties and Laurie Bernardi volunteered and all voted yes! Welcome Laurie! Shannon Collins suggested the Hickory Stick Bookstore fundraiser for December. She volunteered to contact Fran Keilty for a date.