



JAMES MORRIS SCHOOL PTO MINUTES November 4, 2015

Attendees: Margie Groht, Alison Storm, KC Chapman, Barbara Connery, Laurie Bernardi, Denise Wiek Margaret Coe, Jean Leonard and Jessy Barone

Meeting called to order at 5:33pm by Jessy Barone, President

Old Business

A to Z Directory

Jessy Barone is waiting for the last several families' contact information and waiting for parents to verify their data to ensure that all information is correct. Then we can proceed with written publication.

New Business

Lyman Orchard Pie Sale Fundraiser

288 Pies Sold. There is a 40% profit per pie. JMS profit total = \$1843.20.
\$2764.80 Paid to MCM Fundraising for Lyman Orchard Pies

Square One Art

Orders were all due on 10/30/15. Final products should be delivered by 11/23/15 prior to the start of Thanksgiving recess which starts 11/25/15. There were 56 orders placed. 33 on line and 23 written orders. Shipping of the product will be free. Pre-K did not participate this year, but will participate next year. Alison Storm suggested holding an after school session for students to finish their art work and suggested the PTO buy and provide paints and other artwork supplies which would provide vibrant colors on their artwork.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair was organized and run by Margaret Coe. It was held 10/19 - 10/22. Book fair sales = \$2783. 15. Since sales were greater than \$2000, The PTO will receive 25% cash option profit of \$695. 79. Margaret shared some parents desire to purchase some books written in Spanish.

Candy Cane Lane

Where you can start your holiday shopping at James Morris School. It will be open 12/7 - 12/11 during school hours. We will continue to sell unsold items from last year. Due to needing more inventory, Laurie Bernardi and Jessy Barone contacted "Kids Kastle." a holiday shop company. We will be working with them this year.

Hickory Stick Book Shop

Jessy Barone is collaborating with Shannon Collins on continuing this fundraiser.

Need to schedule a date

Stocking Stuffer Drive

The town hall will provide JMS with genders and ages of needy children to be assigned to each classroom before Thanksgiving break. The PTO is asking students/families from each class to donate toys any nonperishable food items for less fortunate Morris families by 12/16 in order to be distributed in time before the holiday break.

Food Drive in Lieu of Teacher's Gifts

The PTO is asking if families would like to donate items to the Morris food pantry instead of buying teachers gifts. Mrs. Layman also shared that during the Halloween custom parade students once dropped off their canned goods as they reentered the school. The PTO can continue this next year.

Principals Report

Principal Chapman shared that the Chapter 126 Field Trip will take place two days. K-2 will participate on December 1st and grades 3-6 will participate on December 2nd. This is a 2 hour program which increases diversity awareness. It will be funded entirely by the district including transportation and ticket cost.

KC Chapman also shared the possibility of another enrichment offering Morris, Goshen and Warrant students the opportunity to watch African dancers perform in December at Wamogo. JMS is responsible for 1/3 the cost of the program and JMS's bus transportation. Vote taken and passed to allot up to \$650.00 for cost of the program. (8 "Yes" and 0 "No")

Cluster enrichments started this week on 11/3. Barbara Connery shared that Student council and LAW (Leadership Awareness Workshop) are combined together this year and is offered as a cluster to 4th-6th grade students, not just 6th grade as done in past years. 6 students will also have the opportunity to attend an upcoming all day leadership program. Mrs. Connery also shared they will also run the coat drive this year. They are asking for donations of coats of any size and gender. Coats will be dry cleaned and given to the Salvation Army and a Waterbury Church to be distributed.

Other School Enrichments

Nature Nick in school enrichment presented. Cost for JMS would be \$633.00 if booked for the same day as Goshen and Warren. Margie Groht presented the idea of exploring local conservatories to provide a similar enrichment for a lower cost. Mrs. Groht will research Commerford and Sons, Beardsley Zoo, Flanders, White Memorial, Various nature center, Connecticut Audubon Society Litchfield bird conservatory, Wadsworth conservatory, and 4-H Programs. Vote taken and passed to allot up to \$650.00 for the cost of this type of enrichment. (8 "Yes" and 0 "No")

"Friends and Families of JMS" Pot Luck Meet and Greet

The PTO would like to hold a Meet and Greet on Friday, Nov. 19th from 6:30-8:30pm. Families are welcome to come and go at any time. Instead of offering a potluck dinner, it was decided that offering coffee and potluck dessert is a better option. Denise Weik will provide a projector for an appropriate movie in the gym for children. Barbara Connery will coordinate older students to help watch younger students during the movie. This event helps support the mission of establishing a community connection. KC will coordinate music for the event and PTO will provide popcorn for the children during the movie.

Open Floor

Alison Strom presented the idea of providing a Bingo Game Night fundraiser. There would be a small fee per game card with a cash prize per winner. Jessy Barone added that the Morris Senior Center plays Bingo and it may be possible to borrow their game supplies. PTO will look into for January or February 2016. Mr. Chapman suggested involving the Senior Center in the game night in keeping with the community outreach goal.

Denise Weik presented the idea of a T-shirt fund raiser idea for the spring. Each student/draws his or her own face on a circle with his or her name. Each class has their faces displayed on the T-shirt and parents/teachers can purchase their students shirt. Students can wear them on field day.

Margie Groht presented the idea of started a 4-H club at JMS which will provide students with life skills and has no cost. Program is offered for 7-19 year olds. There is a possibility of offering a Clover program for 5-6 year olds.