**PIE MEETING**

**Thursday, January 8, 2014, 7PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Kathy DeFanti, Karen Elsner, Linda Hernandez, Jaynemarie Hunt, Moushami Katragadda, Tanya Keating, Trina Kleinberg, Rowena Koran, Tricia Meadows, Kathy Montal, Deb Rogers, Christy Solimine, Tina Walnista; FRCS Staff: Heidi Berkowitz

**MEETING WITH HEIDI BERKOWITZ**

Prior to the official PIE meeting there was a meeting with room parents and Heidi Berkowitz to discuss communication and other relevant topics.

Room parents

* The topic of having room parents chosen before the school year starts was discussed; this would allow them to start communicating with families right away, which is especially convenient since there is so much happening at the beginning of the year. Heidi asked what we would need to do that. Two things were identified:
  + Having the names of parents who are willing to be a room parent. Could try to get this for all but kindergarten at the end of the prior school year.
  + Access to the classroom lists so that we could pick room parents in August.
* Heidi indicated the school would be willing to work with us on this.

Email Frequency

* The topic of email frequency came up and how to best structure emails to not overwhelm people’s inboxes but also maximize communication.
* Some people would prefer 1 email per week; others prefer 1 subject per email with the topic clearly stated in the subject line so it is easy to know if it is relevant or not.

Requests for Support

* One parent mentioned that there are many great organizations in the school (some of them student led, upper school activities) trying to do great things but many of the requests come around Christmas. Is it possible to spread them out more?
* Some examples include the scholarship auction basket, teacher gifts, DSF angels, Shoeboxes, etc.
* One parent mentioned a school they were at collects a set amount from parents at the beginning of the year and that money is used for holiday and end of year gifts, any classroom activities, etc.
* One parent asked if there is a way to do online payment such as paypal.

Uniform company

* There was a question about finding a new uniform company.
* Of the people at the meeting, no one had overly positive comments about their experience with School Pride. Some of the concerns people had:
  + Delayed orders (in some cases, more than a month)
  + Wrong orders received; parents told to coordinate with other family to exchange orders at school.
  + Location of school pride…relatively far away so hard to visit

Official start of PIE meeting

Linda Hernandez motioned to approve the December 11, 2014 minutes, and Rowena Koran 2nd.

**RECENT EVENTS**

Scholarship Holiday Family Event

* Raised $3,866.67
* The event was a great success; it would have been great to have some more families attend. The event’s activities are geared toward younger children while the benefactors of the event are high school students. Is there a way to get more upper school parents to attend?
  + Do we need to engage with high school parents earlier, perhaps introduce them to the Scholarship Committee at the moving to high school night
* Need someone to handle the Scholarship application process
  + Heidi to speak with guidance

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Winter Wonderland K-5

* January 30; sponsored by one of the student councils
* Kathy reached out to guidance/student advisors to see if they need anything
* They are looking for parent volunteers to work the event.

Cupid’s Dance

* High school semi-formal
* No help needed; Student Council members are handling

Mother/Daughter Night Out (grades 5-12)

* February 6 at 6:30
* Co-chairs: Kathy Montal and Kathy DeFanti
* Can chose Hair/Make-up or Painting session
* Working to continue to get the word out there for sign-ups – through posters, announcements, etc. Many kids don’t want to come unless they have friends coming...encourage them to sign-up.

Potential Family Event

* Patriots Place skate park
* We have 40 free tickets
* Could allow the first people to sign up get free tickets

Father-Daughter Dance

* To be held March 20; K-5 event
* Tanya Keating and Christy Solimine to co-chair
* Goal is for the event to make some $

Mother-Son event

* Chair: Tanya Keating
* Tanya is working to identify a replacement for the Paw Sox. Is considering Launch/Skyzone or Laser tag
* Also mentioned a paint/pottery but not sure that boys would be into it.
* Will come back with more details at next meeting

Father-Son Event

* This has been discussed as a possibility; one idea was a dodge ball or volleyball tournament.
* We asked Heidi about Father-Son dodge ball tournament…is there a liability issue, how would we handle, Kathy to check with Foxboro town to see how they handle.
* If we could do something like this, we would look for date in late winter before spring sports

**GENERAL BUSINESS/MISC TOPICS**

Staff meeting refreshments

* Rowena to handle for January. There was discussion about doing a sign-up Genius to get volunteers. Have certain grades do each month with very specific things they can bring in smaller quantities so it is not overwhelming and is easy for people to get and drop off.
* Last time we had the following; most of it was gone at the end:
* Veggie platter
* Cheese & Crackers
* Bag of Swedish fish and Hershey’s
* Bag of apples
* Box of clementines
* Chips/Frito’s – approx. 50 bags
* Water bottles
* 2 platters of chocolate chip cookies from Patty Greene
* Soda from Patty Greene
* Deb motioned to allocate up to $100 for January Staff Meeting snacks; Karen E 2nd.

Cub Scout Pack 314

* 15 Scouts (up from 5 last year)
* 14 parents registered (they must be registered in order to be a volunteer)

Box Tops

* Kathy DeFanti offered to help, along with Karen Elsner; Aiesha had previously volunteered to lead
* Someone needs to reach out to Aiesha and come up with a plan.

Budget Discussion and Requests

* Deb presented the budget and expenses year-to-date.
* Current expenses to date are less than expected.
* School would like PIE to use some of their A&E budget to help with buses for field trips.
* A point was raised about supporting buses for those in need; the concern raised with that is that contributions come from a large % of school and that money should really be used to reduce costs for everyone. There was also some concern raised about using this money and not having it available if another need or program PIE wanted to support came along. Deb indicated that there is a reserve in the PIE budget from previous years so if another event that we want to support comes up, we have money that can be used for that.
* Deb motioned to move excess $2,500 to A&E budget. Linda 2nd