

PIE Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2014, 7:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Laurie Callahan; Kathleen Crawford; Karen Elsner; Susana Girard; Gary Haygazian; Linda Hernandez; Regina Hill; Robin Holcomb; Moushami Katragadda; Tanya Keating; Trina Kleinberg; Rowena Koran; Ana Lisa Mallari; Iesha Marcelino; Kathy Montal; Dorota Perks; Justine Pickering; David Reid; Stephanie Rizzo; Deb Rogers; Erin Schofield; Jen Smith; Christy Solimine; Liz Tremblay; Rebecca Trieb (additional attendees present that didn't sign in)

Jen Smith motioned to approve the minutes from the June 12 meeting; Regina 2nd.

The meeting started with everyone introducing themselves and a brief introduction of PIE.

BUSINESS

Corresponding Secretary

- Tanya Keating was presented to be elected to the position of corresponding secretary, replacing Regina Hill, who resigned in July.
 - Jen Smith motioned to elect Tanya Keating as Corresponding Secretary; Regina Hill 2nd.

President

- It was discussed that the current PIE president resigned over the summer; Kathy Montal, 2nd vice-president, has agreed to act as Interim president. We are seeking a new president or two co-presidents for the remainder of the year. Candidates for president should have been either on the board or chaired an event over the last 3 years. Exceptions will be considered. If anyone is interested in learning more, feel free to reach out to any of the board members or email ParentsInEducation@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report

- Donations will be key this year since, for various reasons, some sources of income from the last two years aren't available this year (Square 1 Art and 2nd book fair). We will see if they can be brought back in future years. We will also look at other alternatives. (Note: 2nd book fair cancelled since no space at school to hold it; in the fall it is held in the 5th grade wing while they are at Nature's Classroom; Square 1 Art requires a lot of work from Ms. Gammerman at the beginning of the year and she requested we not do it this year).
- One parent mentioned they have done Square 1 art through the parents and not used the art teach to do that. We can explore those alternatives as well.
- We will also work with the school to see if we can designate some of the Box Top money toward busses.
- D Parks mentioned a Shoparoo app that is an easy fundraising mechanism for schools. We will work with her to explore and get information for the October meeting.
- Other methods of fundraising specific to PIE are the Wizards (has not yet been a big money maker but has the potential to be) and the fall book fair. The Father-Daughter Dance also brings in some money.
- We will also work with the school to promote other school-wide fundraising options (i.e Target Take Charge for Education and Stop and Shop A+ Program.)
 - It was suggestion we have a laptop or ipad available at other PIE activities in which parents could register on the spot for Target Take Charge of Education and Stop and Shop A= Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Back Night

- Chair: Tanya Keating
- To be held Friday, September 12 at 6PM in the "Pit."

- Families are welcome to bring a picnic and blanket. A member of the YMCA will be there and will have activities for the kids.

Dennis Regling

- Chair: Rowena Koran
- Date: Tuesday, September 16, during school
- He is a science guy; Mr. Y-B was familiar with him and asked PIE if they would support bringing him to FRCS.
- He will perform 2 assemblies during the day on the magic of science; one for K-2 and one for 3-5. In addition, he will have smaller ½ hour demonstrations for the 3-5 graders later that day. Teachers will be signing there classes up.
- Rowena will be the PIE rep at FRCS while Dennis is there; Laurie Ascenios will complete a building use form.

Harlem Wizards

- Chair: Jen Smith
- Date: Friday, September 26, 7PM (doors open at 6:15)
- 2 assemblies at FRCS during the day; game in the evening vs. the FeRoCiouS
- All information is on the www.FRCSPiE.Weebly.com website including info on event, ability to purchase tickets, link to volunteer sign-up form.
- More volunteers needed;
 - Parking lot and directing traffic
 - Selling souvenirs
 - Sell concessions
 - Selling and Collecting tickets
 - Ushers; people standing at the doors to keep food out
 - Need players

Barrett's Haunted Mansion

- Chair: Jen Smith
- Date: Friday, October 10, 5PM in Abington, MA
- This is a fundraising event for PIE...we will earn at least \$800 for the evening but on a Friday, we are likely to earn closer to \$1000-1200.
- We need approximately 40 volunteers to work at the Barrett's Haunted Mansion. All costumes, make-up, etc. will be supplied. Volunteers just have to show up ready to have fun and spook the visitors.
- Volunteers should arrive at 5 and will be done around 10:30 or a bit later, depending upon how many people are in line when tickets stop being sold at 10:30.
- This is something FRCS staff and parents all get involved in.
- The haunted house itself is pretty scary and is probably not suited for young elementary children.
- For more information on Barrett's Haunted Mansion, go to www.bhmansion.com.

Scholastic Book Fair

- Chair: Jen Smith
- Date: Tues–Fri, Oct 14-17, during the school day and one evening (TBD); held in 5th grade wing
- This is both a great way for kids to get excited about reading and be able to purchase very reasonably priced books as well as a fundraiser for PIE.
- Kids will be notified ahead of time about when their classes will be visiting the Book Fair during the day.
- Volunteers will be needed to help set-up, work at the Book Fair during the day (a current CORI is required) and tear down after the fair ends on Friday; a sign-up genius will be added to the PIE website soon.

- There are also some special programs that go along with the book fair and teachers will be able to make up a wish list of books they would like for their class. Parents can purchase some of these books or make a donation towards the books.

MISC

Directory

- Parents expressed desire to have a complete school directory and not just one for their classroom. They find it helpful to contact families outside their classroom, find out who is from the same town as them for carpooling, etc. They would like addresses as well as emails.

Parent Ambassadors

- One parent that is new to the school did not get contacted by a parent ambassador. Will try to get her name and let Karen Harris know.

Scholarship Committee

- This organization is not part of PIE but falls under Friends of FRCS.
- This committee is not active this year due the two leaders who did the majority of the work for the last several years stepping down to focus on other things.
- Kathleen Crawford reported that there are enough funds to support scholarships for this year and part of next year so the Friends of FRCS will use this as a building year to figure out what comes next.
- The Scholarship Committee has done a Family Holiday Event and an on-line auction for the last several years as its main source of fundraising. At this point that is not going to happen this year. There was a question as to whether PIE would want to/could do the baskets anyways this year and auction them off at various events throughout the year as a fundraiser (several parents mentioned having baskets get auctioned off at events was common at other schools in which they had been involved) or would PIE consider holding the Holiday event at which the baskets are typically auctioned off. This requires further discussion but would need to be decided by the October meeting if it was going to happen to allow time for planning.

Music program

- One of the Kindergarten teachers approached Tanya, letting her know there was no pull-out music program for Kindergarten this year. Other areas of the music program are expanding (i.e. orchestra and upper elementary instrument program) but to accommodate, the weekly Kindergarten music pullout class had to be eliminated. Grades 1-6 continue to have a weekly pullout music class as they have in the past.
- There was a question if PIE could do anything to supplement that. Is there anyone locally that would be willing to do a music themed class occasionally? Is there a parent interested? Would this be something a musical student from a local high school would want to do as part of community service?
- Kathy is working with the teachers to find out what it is they are looking for. PIE does not have a lot of extra money this year but there was interest at the meeting to see what can be done.

Teaching Garden

- Ms. Mutrie has been the leader of the teaching garden at the school. The garden is doing great. This garden is targeted at several grades throughout the school. There is a CSL focused on the garden.
- Ms. Mutrie is looking for people to take it over. It involves organizing the classrooms to do plantings, a watering schedule in the summer and harvesting in the fall. As well, there is a newsletter for the teaching garden.
- Get info from Tanya
- It was suggested we put something in the PIE newsletter and through room parents that we are looking for someone.

Boy Scouts

- Boys 7-10, 1st to 5th grade
- Couple meetings a month plus a "go and see" activity
- If signed up by Dec 1, will be considered one of the founders of this pack.
- Meetings are held the 1st and 2nd Thursday of the month

Upper School Outreach

- It was highlighted that PIE supports the entire, K-12 school but many parents think of it more as supporting the lower school. The high school grades have class councils, which, among other things, organize activities for their grades (they typically involve students only; not families) whereas in the lower school, it is PIE that organizes most of the social/community building activities, both for students and for families.
- PIE is always looking for new ways to support the upper school.
- Kathy is meeting with the guidance counselors to get input from them.
- One thought is to help with the lock-in, sponsor a post prom party similar to what many of the local town high schools have (if students want that)

Family Nights

- Family nights are scheduled about once every 1-2 months throughout the school year.
- We are looking for volunteers to organize these. Volunteers can pick one they want to organize and decide on the theme they want. Examples are movie night, game night, science night, etc.

Boxtops for Education

- Chair: Tanya Keating
- A box tops contest will be held this fall.
- Shoe boxes for each classroom are required for collecting Boxtops.

Jen motioned to adjourn meeting; Regina 2nd

The next PIE Meeting is Thursday, October 9 at 7PM