

**Stratton PTO Community Meeting  
October 15, 2018**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm**

Attendance: Heather M., Leila J., Andrea H., Sarah T., Kim VW., Beth S., Patti M., Alan M., Christy M., Carol BD., Shoji T., Amy C., Janine D., Riji B., Rachel F., Andrea K., Dganit S., Brenda M., Tina H., Ashly N., Sarah D., Michael H., Bryn H., K.C.K., Christina F.

Welcome: Bryn and K.C. welcomed everyone and went over the three PTO goals and introduced the PTO executive board.

**2018-19 Plans and New Initiatives**

Last year the PTO funded 19 field trips. Each grade does an average of 3 field trip each year. The PTO also funded 14 in school enrichment activities. We are expected to have more field trip and enrichment this year. These are great extensions to the curriculum that the PTO supports and funds.

This year's authors visit will be Peter Reynolds. He will visit and make a presentation in April.

Green team has also become a sub committee of the PTO and has a club that meets monthly. Safe route to school and the Garden Club are also part of the Green Team. The PTO is also funding nature based learning and mini grants to enable faculty to get nature-based projects in the classrooms.

Recess closets is also in the works. The Recess closet will be a dedicated closet for students that may need outdoor apparel for recess. All students will have access to appropriate clothing whether needed for short or long term. There will be 3 locations, one in each wing for each access.

The PTO will also be funding a Circus Smirkus Residency this year. Beth S. is the volunteer lead and will be hosting 2 circus artists for the week. Patti M., Stratton's PE teacher is the faculty volunteer. It was discussed how Circus arts aligns with the social emotional curriculum that goes along with response classroom. The Circus Smirkus artist will take over the P.E. and library classes during the week. Each general education classroom has P.E 2 times a week (for 40 minutes each), and library 1 time per week. The faculty will help coordinated more ways to incorporate circus art into the curriculum for a month. It was also discussed ways that parents will get to see the students learning, and will be further discussed. The PTO is especially excited about this residency as every student at Stratton will be part of this unique residency.

In the past, Stratton has four Community Events: Ice Cream Social, Halloween Event, Movie Night, and Fun Fest. A survey about these events and potential new community events was sent out and received 57 responses. These results will be further discussed with hopes of adding new community ideas this year.

Halloween party will be held October 26. This year will be slightly different, and carved pumpkins can be brought in for prizes. Costumes are welcome, picnic dinners and pizza will also be available at \$2 a slice. We will use tickets to purchase pizza and if anyone needs assistance, that will be offered, and people may contact the Social workers. There will also be a Halloween science themed show. Show will start at 6:30.

Book Fair will be next week and will be open during the Halloween Event. With social workers assistance, every child will get a book. Every class will visit the book fair during their library special. Teachers/Specials have also created wish list for the classrooms and will be available at the book fair.

### **Fundraising Report**

The 1<sup>st</sup> box top collection is October 26 for the class trophy.

Other ways to support Stratton include: Shopping through Amazon smile, Eat at Not Your Average Joe's Night, and Wilson Farms pies.

October drive is currently happening. 53 families have donated. The goal this year is to have 150 families. Checks or PayPal are both easy ways to donate. Donations over \$250 will be enter into a lottery to win 2 set of tickets, Celtics/Bruins. Reasoning for creating the family goal was discussed.

### **Finance Report**

Last year we raised \$65,000. The Stratton budget is forward funding, so what we raised the prior year is what we spend this year. This year's budget includes PTO temporary outlays. These include buying school supplies, tee shirts, and the directory. All of these the PTO pays up front, but money is reimbursed, either by parents, or sponsored (directory)

New budget items this year included a project cabinet and community assistance. Also new this year, we have budgeted \$2000 for additional community nights. 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition ceremony has also been added this year and will be partially funded by the PTO.

Special Spend is also new this year and is based on the feedback from to community. Updating library books, Circus Smirkus, and the faculty photo wall will be included.

We currently have \$109,808 in the bank. Projected budget is year \$62,410, which will leave us with \$47,000 as a buffer. Money raised is meant to be spent, and new fundraising plans will help continue to grow the budget.

Total expenses are \$73,230, and actual spend will be \$62, 410.

### **Budget was been approved by all**

Arlington Education Foundation is also looking for ideas, contact Principal Hanna with ideas. As ideas need to have school approval.

### **Principal Remarks**

Mr. Hanna discussed the recent loss to the Stratton community and how it affected the school.

The new diversity parent group had a successful 1st meeting. Mr. Hanna as well as three faculty members attended.

### **Faculty Report:**

The faculty have been working hard during the 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks of school, and classrooms are participating in closing circles as a way to review the day.

Many of the faculty are excited about attending a 1-day conference on responsive classroom.

Photo day was a success and most faculty got their photo for the faculty photo wall.

### **Community Events Brainstorm**

Lots of positive interest in the current events held at Stratton.

Most popular among the new events was Art Night. Also popular was an adult only event. Ideas are always welcome, please contact Bryn and K.C.

Meeting was adjourned at 9pm.