



Brookside Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2016 ~ Brookside Elementary School, Cafeteria

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Attendees: 14

President, Rebeca Coffey will do the treasurers report due to the Treasurer, Christine Gillis' absence.

Superintendent Steve Stone

- Spoke about the new standardized report card. First trimester will end December 8th. He asked that parents/guardians bear with them as this is a large, important step forward and errors will occur. Parents/guardians are to contact Ms. Smith with any issues.
- Dracut schools have been recognized by the White House for the Maker Initiative. Each elementary school now has a dedicated space for it. The RMS has been recognized by the White House for their bioengineering efforts which you can read about on the Superintendents blog. <https://sstoneblog.dracutps.org/2016/10/07/recognition-from-the-white-house-for-our-bioengineering-efforts/>
- Town meeting will be held November 7th at 7:30 PM in the Dracut High School Center for Performing Arts. The National Honor Society will provide babysitting services at the school. There are three articles specifically related to the Dracut Public Schools.
 - Article 5: The establishment of a town wide technology stabilization account to support ongoing technology infrastructure needs.
 - Article 7: This article provides a one-time appropriation to several town departments. The schools would receive \$50,000 to cover the cost of maintenance which had to be done in the past few months.
 - Article 9: This article would support the application for the technology grant/loan program as well as authorize the town to appropriate and borrow funds for a school department technology infrastructure upgrade.
- Elections on November 8th. 2 Questions concerning schools

- Question 4 on the legalization of marijuana. Seriously urges parents to vote NO. Studies show the affects have a negative and permanent effect on brains. From an education position this is bad for children.
- Question 2 regarding increase in charter schools. Current funding mechanisms in place are unfair. Charter schools are under no obligation to service special education students. Urge parents to vote NO.

John Hassan, President of Friends of the Library

- Friends of the Dracut Library provides many things to the patrons that do not come out of the normal budget such as guest speakers, the summer reading program, museum passes, etc.
- Looking to get younger members involved in the program.

Secretary’s Report: No changes or updates to the September minutes.

Motion to approve secretary’s report as written was made by Rebeca Coffey and seconded by Monique Verville

Treasurer’s Report: Expenses from September reported.

Motion to approve treasurer’s report as written was made by Rebeca Coffey and seconded by Mrs. Lori Harries

Principal’s Report:

- Kindergarten received its accreditation. Brookside was the first elementary school in the district to complete this major accomplishment.
- MCAS results were released and Brookside scores showed steady progress.
- Food Drive was a major success. Mrs. Harries, Community of Caring Coordinator, headed it up and food will go to the Dracut Food Pantry.
- Scholastic Book Fair went well, selling just under \$5K. It ran a little differently than before.
 - Moved to a vacant room which made it less disruptive to library class
 - Students with money were sent down in small groups to make purchases
- Late help is off to a good start with late buses on Monday and Wednesdays.
- Chorus practice is on Mondays afternoon and currently has 70 students.
- Second grade has been busy with a field trip to the Boston Museum of Science, Grandparents Tea, visit from a paleontologist, and the life size dinosaur chalk drawing.
- Grade 5 will have their Grandparents Tea on October 28th.

- Starting November 1st, a breakfast program will be starting. There will be on-the-go healthy options that students can purchase (\$1.75 and .30 for students eligible for reduced lunch) on their way into the building.
- Brookside will have their Halloween parade on Monday, October 31st starting at 1:45.

Old Business:

- **Book Fair**
 - Great success. Profit should be about \$1300
- **Yankee Candle**
 - Orders should be arriving within the next week and will be distributed during Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 16th in room C-10.
 - Total sales were over \$12K.
- **Bear Wear**
 - Sold 90 pieces which arrived this week and have been distributed.
 - Only item that was bumped up in price were the t-shirts, which were the biggest seller. We should receive a small profit.
 - Jammie pants are not child sized. After a short discussion with member's present it was decided to continue offering them.
 - Will reopen for sales November 14th – 30th and add some new items. Potentially hat, scarves, socks & Paw mittens.

Upcoming Fundraising:

- **I-Scream Social, October 28th, 6 – 7:30 PM**
 - There will be dancing to DJ Wild Bill and make your own ice cream sundaes in the cafeteria. The gymnasium will have a few games/activities and crafts.
 - Mrs. Harries and her team will be putting together the Invasion of the Scare Crows (location TBD due to weather). Tickets will be handed out and small groups taken through so that the line moves faster.
- **Battle of the Bears – Informational sheet is available**
 - New fundraiser which will be held November 14th – 18th. This is to replace the Great Penny Race which we plan to hold in the spring
 - We will hold a 15 - 20 minute kick off assembly on November 10th
 - Grades will battle other grades to build and accessorize a 4ft cardboard bear. The grade at the end of the week with most built/accessorized bear wins. Cost will be \$600 to build the entire bear.

- At parent/teacher conferences we will have a table of accessories that parents may purchase for the grade of their choice.
- Members in attendance discussed and decided that 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the local charity, The Eric A. Jacobson Scholarship Fund
 - This scholarship helps reduce the cost of performing arts, drama, chorus, band and related activities for students in grade 5 -12 attending Dracut Public Schools.

Adjournment

- Next meeting will be held December 8th.
- 8:23 pm meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn was made by Rebeca Coffey and seconded by Monique Verville.