



# MERRYMOUNT PTO

## General Meeting

### Thursday, March 29, 2018



## Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – The General Meeting of the Merrymount PTO was held on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Merrymount School. It was presided over by Co-Presidents, Alexis McLean and Stephanie Gallegos and recorded by Co-Secretary, Jen André.
- II. **PTO Financial Overview** – Co-Treasurer, Jen Curran, presented a PTO financial overview, referencing slides 1-3 of the attached, which included overall financials, fundraising and sources of income and expenses/how the PTO supports our school.
- III. **City Wide Update -**
  - Stephanie explained that City Wide is a District organization made up of PTO reps from each school. The purpose is information-sharing, collaboration on select initiatives and a forum to present and discuss district-wide areas of interest and concern (e.g. School Safety, MCAS Overview, and Technology Investment).
  - Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, from 7-8PM @Broad Meadows and open to ALL parents. Jen Chen and Maren Heise represent the MM PTO. Going forward they will provide a CityWide update at MM PTO mtgs.
  - The next Citywide Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and is focused on School Safety.
  - Meeting schedule, agendas and minutes may be found on their Facebook page; the schedule and agendas (once published) can also be found on the MM Website *Upcoming Events* list.
- IV. **Events and Planning -**
  - **Baystate Recycling** - There will be a district-wide competition from April-June. The school/organization that collects the most Recycling will receive a \$1k prize. Campaign ideas discussed by parents include:
    - Organize as part of Cleaner Greener with a “Spring Cleaning” theme
    - Organize as part of 5<sup>th</sup> grade Car Wash or Bike wash with theme “Clean Out Your Car and Your House”
    - Try to fill UHaul/Large Truck – Schedule/offer Pick-ups at houses/neighborhoods
    - Anyone willing to Chair the campaign or volunteer should contact the PTO
  - **Fun Run** – Has been re-scheduled to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> due the number of families impacted by the recent storms.
    - To show their support, the company (Boosterthon) has offered \$1k towards flood relief for MM families impacted and to support a future event (such as providing a DJ for Field Day).
    - Stephanie confirmed that the company requires a \$2k deposit and since it is our 1<sup>st</sup> year, we selected the fully supported model, which is a 50/50 split of proceeds. This is a higher percentage than we have received from past fundraisers (ex. Yankee Candle, Mixed Bag, Square 1, etc.)
  - **Dine Out Program** – Considering Hough Many Scoops, 99s, Papa John’s. McDonalds was also recommended
  - **Box Tops** – There will be a competition, the class that brings in the most Boxtops will receive a prize
  - **Stop & Shop** – Participation down. Attributed to card holders must now set-up an account and register online
- V. **General Discussion**
  - **Communications** – When possible the goal is to communicate across channels (paper flyers, email (for subscribers), website, Facebook). Parents discussed varying communication preferences, i.e. all be provided via paper, prefer all online w/option to opt-out of paper. Due to the manual process of counting and distributing flyers, unable to support a paper opt out. Also due to the cost, effort and sometimes timing not

possible to provide flyers of every communication. General concern about the cost of paper - Explained each flyer requires ream of paper; if anyone would like to donate paper or can assist with copying and distribution contact PTO.

- **Bake Sale** – Due to success of the Election Bake Sale and 100% profits, suggested Spring Bake Sale be considered. Further research needed to find opportunity for similar traffic (to Election) and securing raffle items, which contributed to past Sale success. Anyone willing to research or Lead should contact the PTO.
- **Photo Release/Social Media** – Parents raised concern about posting student photos publicly on Facebook (ex. kindergarten page). Board explained that pictures are only posted of children with signed photo-release waivers. Mrs. Pegg agreed to review the waiver to confirm what is covered within and make revisions if needed. In addition, agreed to discuss options with faculty managing Grade FB pages (K,1,4,5) to make Class pages closed groups instead of public Pages. PTO FB Page will be remain a public page.
- **Coupon Book Raffle** – Katelyn Lynch, looking into this opportunity.
- **Parent Social** – Working to schedule low-key parent social at a local restaurant or bar. No Fundraising, just an opportunity to socialize. Targeting to schedule Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Volunteering** – Board expressed need for more volunteers - Leading events/Campaigns, creating flyers/communication, making distributing copies, donating water, paper goods, etc. Unable to pursue amazing ideas/events without more support. It was suggested to create sign-up Genius or post all needs.
- **Wish List** – Parents suggest to make teacher Wish Lists available throughout the year to allow direct purchases as needed. Ideally make them available at Report Card conferences next week. Board will pursue.

#### **Principal, Mrs. Pegg's Updates:**

- **MCAS** - MCAS testing will be Mon., April 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>. Dates are determined by the district. There are a total of 14 testing days (vs. 22 last year). 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade testing will be computer-based and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be paper-based. Purchase of Chromebooks by the PTO and district, allows for a 1:1 computer/student testing ratio. An IT resource will be onsite on testing days to ensure network health and perform troubleshooting as needed. MCAS are untimed and students may take multiple short breaks as needed. Snacks will be eaten prior to testing and the PTO will be providing additional snacks. The MCAS schedule may be found on the Upcoming Events section of our MM Website and on the Principal's Letter/School Calendar to be distributed next week. Questions about MCAS should be directed to students' teachers.
- **Math-a-Thon** – Thanks to the generosity of families, \$3,059 was raised. As a result, each teacher will receive a \$125 check for their classroom. If/as additional money is received it will be distributed.
- **Matt Noyes** – Channel 10 Meteorologist/Weather Warrior, visited the school and met with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders this week. We were the 1<sup>st</sup> school Matt visited 12 years ago and we have already begun working with him to schedule next year's visit, alternating grades.
- **Leukemia and Lymphoma Fundraiser** – Mrs. Slocum is coordinating a fundraiser scheduled to start week of 4/2. Each child will be provided a small box to collect pocket change. Last year MM raised ~\$2k and received a Gold Champion Award. The top selling class, will receive a surprise prize. A flyer will distributed/posted with details.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00PM**

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** – *Dates can also be found on the website Calendar of Events and Monthly School Calendar*

- **CityWide PTO Meeting** – Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>
- **April PTO Meeting** – Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>
- **Parent Social** \*Tentative\* – Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>
- **CityWide PTO Meeting** – Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>
- **May PTO Meeting** – Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>
- **Red Sox Outing** – Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>
- **June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>
- **June PTO Meeting and Board Election** - TBD