

Minutes
Sugartown Elementary PTO General Meeting
Thursday, January 21st, 2016

I. Call to Order – 7:07pm

II. Introductions: Joelle Iams, Sherry Shah, Melissa Markowski, Tiana Threadgill, Teche Myers, Orazio Coscia, Tony Dufour, Kerry Cavalcanto, Dr. Karen Schneck, Allyson Babcock, Margaret Nelson, Hillary Schmid, Jeanine Lloyd, Andrea Mirin, Meghan Perricone

III. Minutes approved

IV. Principal's Report

Dr. Karen Schneck

- Feb. 4, Kevin O'Malley – author visit, lunch with some children
- Feb. 25, ST 10 yr anniversary celebration/open house – presentation of mural (will start Feb. 1); kids will be able to see progression of mural; in the Fall, kids made paw prints about what they like about ST, ABCs of Sugartown, Wordles, decorated tiles; small presentation at 6pm, open to entire school community, past and present
- Mar. 2, Read Across America Night, change of time, will start at 6:30pm; entire day will be pj day; Spring Book Fair also that night (see below)
- Field trip reminders will be sent to parents early to notify everyone to get their clearances if they have not already; process can take some time; will need significant number of chaperones for Spring field trips
- DJ Dance Party was successful, over 200 kids

V. Treasurer's Report

- 1/3 way to our target income; Spring Fair is our largest fundraiser (yet to happen); the small fundraisers are not generating enough money
- ST Yardsale was an idea that was brought to the PTO last year, good community event; no one volunteered to chair this event so it will not happen
- Ideas from parent: Jump rope-a-thon? Coordinated with gym teachers and heart health? Will still need volunteers...similar issues with Boosterthon (take away from instructional time, kids asking for money)
- Dance Party very well attended...could we piggyback off this?
- Bring back "Just write a check" campaign for the second half of the year; focus on a time frame, specific goal; some issues...parents don't want to write multiple checks for field trips, etc. Perhaps focus on assemblies?
- Area schools brought in a lot of money with their silent auction; went throughout the community and got donations; due to not having a chairperson for our silent auction, we only had ST pride items to bid on, brought in less people; need chairperson and committee to start in June soliciting auction items in order for this to be a successful fundraiser

VI. Board Member Reports

Vice President: Orazio Coscia

- a. Wellness Fair (Kerry Cavalcanto) – Will be Friday, Feb. 5 from 7-9pm; FREE event – zumba, yoga, obstacle course, Veggiecation cooking demo, health and wellness vendors; spread the word, raffles, name the Tower Garden
 - o From parent: Why not charge for this event and use as fundraiser? Charge \$0.25 for each submission to name Tower Garden?
 - o Not meant to be a fundraiser, more of a fun night for kids/learning opportunity for families
- b. Read Across America/Spring Book Fair – start time moved up to 6:30pm; see above
- c. Book Fair update – Due to Jabberwocky books closing in August, our Spring Book Fair this year will be sponsored by Scholastic. Not everyone in the school on board with this, several teachers typically like the different selection of books that comes from Jabberwocky. Due to the time constraint we will use Scholastic for this Spring BF, evaluate how it goes, and determine if a smaller vendor is better for the following Spring. Will be asking parents to their opinions on which supplier they prefer.

Vice President: Teche Myers

- a. Spring Fair (May 13th 5:00-9:00pm/ Co-chairs: Heather Godley and Margaret Nelson) – theme will be decided soon, look for sign up genius for volunteers (125 needed!)

Vice President: Tony Dufour

- a. ST Night Out – reminder that we need to explain events a little better to new families; Anthony’s and Christopher’s did especially well; Should these be repeated again this school? Next month is the Office Bar and Grill, Feb. 24th, 11am-10pm
- b. Encourage people to like our FB page, spread the word, posts not always seen by everyone; comment to boost the post
- c. ST PTO grant proposals – while we are struggling to balance our budget, we do have a reserve that we would like to work down. In the Spring and Fall, we would like to give out mini-grants to the school community...current year, next year, anything to support the kids; Forms will be distributed in the next few weeks. Requirements and legality will be determined by Dr. Schneck and the Board and voted on in October and April

Communications Coordinator: Tiana Threadgill

- a. Communication Updates – Please read the Scoop!! Would it help if the Scoop came out on a different day of the week instead of Sunday night?
- b. Trying to figure out the best way to reach people: FB, flyers, ST Admin, homeroom parents, Scoop...

Recording Secretary: Kerry Cavalcanto – general meeting minutes will be posted on the ST PTO page

VII. Co – President Report: Joelle Iams and Sherry Shah

- a. Volunteers needed (Wellness Fair, Lego club, Spring Fair) – be on the lookout for sign ups
- b. Future fundraising ideas
 - o Idea of raising money for a charity in conjunction with a fundraiser for the school?
 - o Idea of a “Drop Off Night”/”Parents Night Out” - dropping off kids at school, watch a movie, pizza, games - \$20/family? – will need a chairperson, volunteers with clearances
 - o Possible idea of combining the DJ Dance Party with the Silent Auction; lots of parents just hanging out in the halls during the dance party; is this a better opportunity for the auction than the bingo night?
 - o Raise more money for the Spring Fair by showcasing raffle baskets earlier? Have baskets on display the week before and allow students/parents to put tickets in all week (especially for families that may not be able to come to the fair)
- c. Committee Reports – these are helpful for new chairs and committee members so they can get a better understanding of what is expected of them in a chairperson role
- d. Open Board Positions for Next Fall - VP, recording secretary, co-treasurer; Sherry’s Co-President position is also open as she filled in for Rosemary
- e. Open Chair Positions for 2016/2017: Fall Fundraiser/Silent Auction chairs; Spring Fair chairs to shadow this year’s chairs

VIII. Questions & Ideas - Door is Always Open! Email SugartownPTOBoard@gmail.com

- Is there/will there be a state-wide database regarding clearances? Dr. Schneck: we do not know, just doing our best to handle those in the school
- Communication issues/preferences: FB, flyer, what are everyone’s preferences?
- PTO table at all school functions that bring in a lot of people (conferences, concerts, fundraisers) to talk with parents, have sign up sheets for general/committee volunteers, sell leftover notepads, etc., maybe a copy of PTO-sponsored activities? May be a more personal way for the PTO to connect to the parents; Definitely have a table at the Feb. 25th anniversary open house

IX. New Business/Upcoming Dates

• Wellness Fair	February 5 th	7:00-9:00 pm
• No school	February 12 & 15 th	
• Sugartown Community Night (10 th Anniversary)	February 25 th	
• Read Across America/ Book Fair	March 2nd	6:30 pm
• Spring Musical	March 9th	7:00 pm
• PTO Meeting	March 30 th	9:15 am

Adjournment – 8:36pm

