

Minutes
Sugartown Elementary PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, November 18th @ 9:15am

I. Call to Order – 9:19am

In attendance: Dr. Karen Schneck, Joelle Iams, Jessica Potterton, Sherry Shah, Melissa Markowski, Pareez Golub, Tony Dufour, Teche Myers, Kerry Cavalcanto, Karen Manning, Margaret Nelson, Jessica Pellicciotta, Evelyn Klein, Andrea Mirin, Allyson Babcock, Jackie Priadka, Tammy V'Soske, Lynnette Grant

II. Minutes approved

III. Special Guest: Sugartown Wellness Committee chairperson – Jessica Pellicciotta

- Formed 2 years ago; their mission is to increase awareness and development of life-long wellness practices; Initial goal – monthly themes (nutrition detectives, sugar awareness, hydration challenge); i.e. increase awareness that asthma related to dehydration; Halloween candy collection (288 lbs collected this year!), Eat a Rainbow
- This month's theme: Grateful Grapes, school-wide initiative to get kids to think about what they grateful for; covered the walls of school with every class' grapes
- New program this year – Every Kid Healthy Week in April; one health professional each day will discuss a different wellness theme
- Take notice of the new display case in the lobby, is updated monthly
- Tower Garden – challenges in keeping the tower healthy; Have asked teachers to take ownership of the tower, incorporate curriculum for the lower grades (2-8); Mrs. Casey (first grade) will be growing seeds and having the Tower in her room this December/January; working to get kids involved in growing and eating vegetables
- Veggication program – kids cooking class, help them learn to love vegetables; hope to have an after school class in the future
- Wellness Fair – February; a fun way to offer wellness initiatives throughout the community; 17 different vendors last year; cooking/fitness demos, kids yoga, zumba; very interactive; donation to Cradles to Crayons; this year will be February 5th
- New this year, Fitness Club under Wellness Committee; will be back in the Spring, chaired by Stacey Coscia
- Need people to sign up for monthly themes; anyone can go and sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c44acab2aabfd0-wellness>

IV. Principal's Report

Dr. Karen Schneck

- Lots of community events going on lately: Turkey Trot (largest group running); Fall Festival (kids unsolicited saying how fun it was!); Barnes & Noble night very successful, huge turnout, great school support!
- Kindergarten/2nd grade Thanksgiving plays coming up
- Conferences Nov. 23-24
- Mural project for 10th anniversary: Artist working on mural ("what's special about ST"); this week, ABCs of Sugartown (A=art, after school sports); will create "wordles" from now to Feb. with words from the students
- Community Night to celebrate 10th anniversary on Feb. 25; see finished mural, invite community, relaxed open house-type event

V. Treasurer's Report

Pareez Golub

- a. Fall Fundraiser – only some expenses have been submitted, need more to see the full picture
- b. Directory – some unexpected expenses; printing costs were higher than expected (color vs. b&w); did not get as many ads as expected; work on getting more ads in Spring for next year? Emphasize

- promoting Infosnap next year to feed into Directory
- c. Just Write Check - \$805 in donations

VI. Board Member Reports

Vice President: Orazio Coscia – not present

Vice President: Teche Myers

- School Store really popular; Dr. Schneck imposing a \$5 spending limit
- Spiritwear sale ended Friday, lots of new items
- Teacher Appreciation Dinner next Tuesday, still need volunteers to bring in food

Vice President: Tony Dufour

- Thank you to all for Fall Festival
- Sugartown Nights Out – successful so far; Anthony’s in the Spring; keeping local, look out for flyers for upcoming events
- Lego League; looking for a robotics seminar for 4th & 5th graders
- Sugartown Cares – 200+ socks collected
- Yearbook getting going (Tammy V’Soske)
- FB posts, like or small comment will keep the post towards the top (will put this on FB)

Communications Coordinator: Tiana Threadgill – not present

Historian/Advisor: Jessica Potterton

- Taking lots of pictures at all recent events

Recording Secretary: Kerry Cavalcanto – nothing new

Co – President: Joelle Iams and Sherry Shah

- a. Rosemary Moon had to step down and will not be able to finish her term as President; Thank you to Sherry Shah for stepping up
- b. Fall Festival – really lacking in volunteers, was almost solely run by the Board; this was a very hard undertaking, need more people to step up
 - Spring Fair, one chair already (Heather Godley), will need a second person; this is our biggest fundraiser
 - Without more volunteers, we will have to look at other fundraising efforts that need less volunteers
 - Teachers are doing a good job encouraging the students to attend fundraising events
 - What can we do to increase our volunteers? Are clearances an issue?

VII. Question & Answer

Door is Always Open! Email SugartownPTOBoard@gmail.com

- Question, thought of combining fundraising efforts with other elementary schools? Is it hard to solicit donations from local businesses for silent auctions? Pool resources?
- Get ideas from other PTOs (meet with other schools, get their ideas)

VIII. New Business/Upcoming Dates

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| Staff Appreciation Dinner | November 24 th | 5:00pm @ ST |
| Family Fun Night Dance Party | January 8 th | 7:00pm |
| PTO General Meeting – Off Campus | January 21 st | 7:00pm |
| Wellness Fair | February 5 th | 7:00pm |

IX. Adjournment – 10:10am