

Kingston Elementary School PTA Board Meeting: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Meeting Called to Order-6:35pm

In attendance- Anna Feliberti, Kathryn Whitworth, Polly Foster, Julie Kelley, Diane Tegtmeier, Jessica Pickering, Christine Moore, Karen Mirra, Leslie Nelson, Bridget Fickenscher, Dr. Sharon Shewbridge, Teri Davis

President: Anna Feliberti

- Asked for a motion to approve the General Membership meeting minutes. Polly Foster made the motion and Leslie Nelson seconded.
- Polly also made a motion to approve the financial report and Christine seconded.
- Anna reported that hospitality was amazing for the teacher appreciation week luncheon.
- We have obtained 2 certificates of appreciation to a couple of our Cougar Fund donors. This year's recipients are the Helmans and Throckmortons. Both families have been long-time supporters of the Cougar Fund.

Secretary: Anna reported for Vicky

- We received two thank you cards for the luncheon. One from Mary Lou and one from Judy. Both cards were passed around.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs: Kathryn Whitworth

- Spring Fling is May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have a DJ and Kona Ice Truck. No city permit is necessary for this event. Kathleen and Emily have some new ideas for games. Maybe a kickball game. Reserving a photo booth was discussed. Anna and Kathryn will gather quotes. If not a professional photo booth, then maybe just a selfie station. We will serve pizza again and order a little bit more than last year.
- Family Reading Night (Vicky has full report). This was a huge success! Note for next year: plan to hold the book fair at the same time again because Scholastic will offer a kick-back.
- Variety Show- Also a huge success. (Vicky has full report) Note for last year: try to hold rehearsals on days/times when there are not any after-school clubs going on.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership: Christine Moore

- We received the award for 109% membership, 25% male members and 100% teacher membership!
- VIE for March: 3 very deserving volunteers. Roberta Kavanaugh (Reading Night Chair), Eileen Ju and Kerry Furey (for their work on the Variety Show)

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Ways and Means: Melody Adler

- Nothing to report

Administration Report: Dr. Shewbridge and Teresa Davis

- Dr. Shewbridge asked for some feedback on the grading and reporting metrics that were presented and discussed at the last school planning committee meeting. There were some questions about how the grading metrics are kept consistent from teacher to teacher within the same grade level and from school to school within the

district. Dr. Shewbridge and Mrs. Davis discussed ways that they are able to review the teachers grading practices to be sure they are as consistent as possible.  
-Mrs. Davis discussed the need for parent volunteers to help be hall monitors during SOLs. SOLs will run from May 18<sup>th</sup>-June 7<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up genius will be set up to coordinate. Parents may not volunteer on a day that they have a child testing.  
-Reminder to attend the parent's night out fundraiser

Announcement of upcoming events

-Spring Fling May 19<sup>th</sup>

Next General Membership Meeting and Elections- May 19<sup>th</sup>

Next Board Meeting-May 16<sup>th</sup>

Final Board Meeting and Binder Swap- June 6<sup>th</sup>

Field Day- May 12<sup>th</sup>

June 8<sup>th</sup>- Spring LTI Training at 6:15

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54

### **Family Reading Night Report**

Family Reading Night seemed to be a hit! The meal from Reginella's worked well. If ordering in the future, we need to cut the meatballs in 1/2 as we ran out and serve MORE pasta; we had 2 extra trays,. We also need to order extra bread.

With a great deal of help from Ms Nye and Mrs. Yates, we had lots of student work available for the parents to view, an interactive display for the kids and a teacher story area. Their help was greatly appreciated.

The crafts in the gym seemed to keep the kids engaged. They were able to make a cape, a mask, do coloring pages and write their own super hero comic strip. There was also a making words game they could play with their family.

Kelly LaRue's therapy dog was fantastic. It was a great tie-in to the event.

Sheli Auten's "selfie spot" was AMAZING. She did a fantastic job on the skyline. The kids loved having their picture taken "flying" across the city. It is currently housed in Mrs Yates room and should find a permanent home. It's too cute not to save.

I don't know the numbers but I am assuming that having the Book Fair in accordance with family reading night boosted sales tremendously. We also get a percentage back from Scholastic if we host a family night during the book fair so they should be planned together again next year.

The only thing that wasn't received well were the community guest readers. We had them placed outside the book fair and kids didn't seem to be interested or it was just too busy of a place. They were all good sports about it.

I also had a great deal of help from parents who made copies, cut capes and embellishments for the masks. Kat worked her magic and created all the graphics for our crafts and flyers. Lots of hands went into making the night a success.

### **Report on 2017 Variety Show**

Show was a success despite tornado warnings and storms!

#### **Changes made this year included:**

Online Registration

Obtaining permission slips for all rehearsals and auditions online prior to audition day

Coaching Sessions

2 Days of auditions

Created rubrics for different types of acts for audition day.

Did not require acts and parents to stay for entire audition day. They were allowed to go when finished with their audition.

Limiting show to 40 acts. (We did not have 40 acts audition)

The auditions process ran so much more smoothly because of changes made. I would highly recommend scheduling no more than 20 auditions per afternoon slot. In 2016, we heard 45 acts in one afternoon. It was the most stressful day of the entire show last year. Coaching sessions helped a great deal in getting music ahead of time, which helped the pace of the auditions. In 2016, many showed up to auditions without music and were looking it up on phones!

#### **Recommended changes for next year:**

If at all possible, holding rehearsals on non-club day.

Requiring performers to submit all lyrics to their music along with their registration for audition.

Having a volunteer with the specific task of screening for content of acts. (Corrine Mastronardi has volunteered to screen for content next year at auditions.)

Decide on whether or not to allow photographers to photograph during the show.

Communicate this clearly in information and registration forms to photographers and families. If you do allow photographers, I would give them a set aside spot.

Last year, there were complaints about the photographers being distracting. This year, there were some hard feelings about not being able to take photos during the show. Might be a compromise in there.

Continue to include 3-5 graders. We stated that we would give slots to 4-5 grade students should the number of properly prepared acts exceed 40. Thankfully, it was not necessary. Volunteers involved next year can discuss course of action.

Do not require parents and acts to stay for entire audition. This year, I requested that if children and parents could stay to support other performers and ensure that those going last would have someone to listen to them and cheer them on. Many volunteered to stay.

As hard as it is, I suggest holding firm to required attendance at all rehearsals, from start to finish, which is clearly stated in the approved guidelines, along with dates and times of rehearsals. Sickness is unavoidable, and should continue to be

excused. But each act has 3 rehearsals and a dress rehearsal to learn how to come together as a show! It is much more than the individual act. Some children may be unable to participate if their schedules do not allow.

Eileen Ju did an amazing job getting registrations online and has some ideas to make the process even better next year, including a separate registration for stage hands and set design, as they are not required to audition. Need to figure out how to submit lyrics on form next year.

We need parents of younger children working the show next year and shadowing the experienced volunteers (should they be able and willing to return). Many of the crew from this year will be parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students next year and leaving. None of the team has officially committed to return, as we would like to make sure our schedules will allow for the time commitment. Many, including myself, are open to possibility and hoping to be able to return.

An aside, as chair, it is a JOY to work with the kids! The bows at the end of the show filled me with happiness and delight! I am very proud of the kids, and know that the memories of these experiences and the bonds they form with friends will last a lifetime. Thank you PTA and administration for opportunity. I think it is worth the risk and effort to do, and hope this tradition continues at Kingston for years to come!