



Greenville Elementary

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Combined PTA/PTSA Meeting

Minutes for December 1, 2011

6:30 PM

Room: Elementary Cafeteria

In attendance: Michelle Cotter, Lori Manning, Melissa Snow, Debbie Theiss-Mackey, Jeffrey R. Lewis, Peter Mahan, Brian Reeve, Nicole Field, Theresa Donlon, Leslie Arp, Maureen Grupe, Melissa Trostle, Diane McAneny, Ann Marie O'Hanlon

- I. Welcome/Call to order/Introductions
- II. Review and approval of prior meeting minutes
Leslie A. motioned to approve; Peter M. seconded
- III. Officer/Chairperson Reports
 - a. President –
 - i. Pam Hollinde is requesting community members vote for Greenville at Intel's website in order to earn \$25,000 towards technology equipment. Although there is a requirement to register on the site, downloading the app is not required.
 - ii. Book Fair is taking place this week and has been very successful. 50% of what is earned will go towards Scholastic Bucks for purchasing books for the classroom.
 - iii. SpartanWear apparel orders are going well. Items will arrive by Christmas.
 - b. Treasurer –
Carmen B. was unable to attend, but reported a current balance of \$14,861.46
 - c. Principal –
 - i. Nature's Classroom was an outstanding event for the students. Kids were exposed to fantastic learning experiences that included dissections, science experiences. The children were enthusiastic. Peter thanked the PTA for their contribution that allowed all children who wished to participate attend. Children who were not participating in the full week were able to take part in a one-day field trip to Nature's Classroom. A special thank you to Mrs. Rowley for her continuing effort to make this program a success.
 - ii. Peter provided updates on the school's committees (see below).

IV. Committee Reports

a. BLT –

- i. Work continues on creating goals and the action calendar to meet these goals. These include supporting the responsive classroom approach which encourages a culture of respect, especially in the lunchroom and on the playground. The team worked through an exercise where they consider one memory of a negative experience in elementary school.
- ii. One PTA member raised a concern regarding the article in the local newspaper, the Press, which highlighted a drop in standardized scores across NYS. Peter M. and Brian R. explained that benchmarks were changed to a higher standard (graduation vs. work/college readiness) prior to giving schools the opportunity to prepare for the changes in expectations. Additionally, the tests are a “snapshot” of one day, rather than a balanced view of a student’s ability. Screening is occurring throughout the year to get a better understanding of their level in order to provide the appropriate support to be successful.

b. GATE –

- i. The Entertainment Book Fundraiser was a low-risk way to generate revenue - \$2,600. Some will go to the Greenville Educational Foundation that will grant money to teachers for enrichment opportunities for students. Other funds will be used for the K-12 chess clubs to provide Chess Club t-shirts. Although there is a long waiting list for the Chess Club, we are unable to use the fundraiser money for stipends to expand the club.
- ii. The Middle School staff participated in a meeting with the GATE to identify parent forums that can serve both PTA and PTSA meeting participants such as saving for school, addressing anxiety in students and parents. Some ideas for parent forums included: Abstinence, Nurturing Leadership, Time/Stress Management, Helping with Homework, Preparing Financially for College, Understanding How to Prepare Academically for College (vs. focus on sports), How to Help Foster Your Child’s Dreams, How to Navigate Your Child Through the Middle School/High School Years to Put Them on the Right Path for Success.

V. Grant Requests/Updates

- a. Nature’s Classroom - \$500 request from Mrs. Rowley. \$189 will be used for a fundraising program and will be paid directly to the fundraising company; \$311 will be used to provide financial assistance for participating students in need.
Theresa motioned to approve; Diane seconded
- b. School nurses - \$200 to purchase underwear
Peter motioned to approve; Ann Marie seconded

VI. Ongoing/Upcoming Events/Programs

- a. PARP – This year’s theme is “Catch the Reading Bug”. We have a bug die-cuts. Need volunteers to begin work.
- b. After School Enrichment (ASE) – Will begin in February. May use CGCC students to lead the programs. Need to begin soliciting volunteers NOW! Jeffrey Lewis volunteered to teach a class on Erector sets.

VII. New business/questions
N/A

VIII. Next Meeting
a. January 5th, 6:30 p.m. in the Greenville Elementary Library.

Upcoming PTA meetings:
(First Thursday of each month – please mark your calendars!)
February 2
March 1
April 5
May 3
June 7