

Minutes from 9/18/17 Fiske PTO General Meeting
Fiske Library

Attendees: Megan LeBlanc, Erica Flagg, Dorothy Strzelecki, Manisha Varma, Kara Thornton, Erin Kenny, Debbie Gianarikas, Nichole Bernier, Jessica Staunton, Neeti Chavhan, Eileen Savarese, Alison Giorlando, Megan Kamm, Ceida Chan, Anna Papoutsis, Robin Bellinger, Rachel McGregor

Copies of minutes from the 5/11/17 general meeting were presented on the meeting tables.

At 8:45 am, Manisha called the meeting to order, asked attendees to introduce themselves, and passed 5/11/17 general meeting minutes around for approval. Megan L. moved to approve minutes; Erin K. and Kara T. seconded.

Principal's report from Rachel

- The year is off to a great start. Sue Drayton, the new secretary, is learning the ropes; please say hello to her.
- Back to school night on 9/13 was a success.
- As mentioned at back to school night, recess is before lunch now. To reduce noise and chaos, now only one grade level eats lunch at a time. Lunchtime recycling program is up and running.
- First after-school STEAM enrichment session is scheduled to begin 10/10. Still looking for chess teacher.
- Please take note of map in hall where Fiske community members can mark their countries of origin with stickers.
- Spanish program is for grades K-3 this year.
- Grades 3 through 5 have 1:1 (one-to-one) iPads. This is new in third and fourth this year.
- Halloween parade will be on 10/31, again this year on the back field instead of through the neighborhood. Kara T. wondered if there is possibility of going back to old route, and Erin K. agreed: last year on back field it was hard to see the children, wet, and too sunny. Jess S. asked if the route could at least loop in front of school.
- On Wednesday 11/15, Fiske will again hold its own Turkey Trot during school hours. The children run around the back field a few times and bring in canned food to donate.
- Harp Bedi and Jay Staunton have volunteered to be Fiske's new School Council members.
- Usually we get MCAS scores in September, but this year they are coming out mid-October. This was a new test.

- On Wednesday 9/27 after school, Wellesley Police Department will come to Fiske to give teachers ALICE active shooter training. Manisha asked if this is new. Rachel said the administrative team did it last year, and then at end of year WPD came and did limited training at Fiske. This full training will include more real scenarios, and every WPS school is doing it.
- School picture day is 9/19.
- Community continues to work toward safe and efficient car line practices. Eileen S. suggested that cars are exiting the line because people in front of them are getting out to help children; she wondered if a hard copy notice would encourage drivers to follow the rules, i.e. stay in line and stay in car instead of getting out to help kids. Erin K. wondered: didn't fifth graders used to help children exit cars in the morning? Rachel said she is working with fifth grade teachers to come up with jobs for students, and morning car line helper should be one of them.
- Second grade teacher Megan Kamm said the year is off to a great start, and Rachel said the students are acting as if they never left.

President's report from Manisha

- We need to start thinking about the auction; Erica F. and Manisha will meet to get the ball rolling. The possibility of many small fundraising events instead of one large auction was floated before the meeting began.
- Discussed forming a Fiske team for the all-Wellesley Turkey Trot, which takes place the morning of Thanksgiving. (This is not the same event as the Fiske-only Turkey Trot at school on 11/15.) Ceida C. and Kara T. said it is very fun: a 5K course that some people walk, some run, lots of strollers, lots of kids. Kara asked if the Fiske team would be official, or just in spirit. Ceida said the team could take a picture before the race begins, and then everyone takes the course at her own speed. Jess S. might organize.
- Since Hillary Madge has moved on to the middle school, there is nobody to organize game nights, usually scheduled for October and February.
- Dates for grade-wide socials have gone out in Monday memos, and email invitations from hosts will come soon. Erica F. said she hosted the fourth grade social last weekend, and it was very lightly attended because it has been so difficult to get class lists and contact info this year. Perhaps dates should be moved up in Monday memo to ensure people see them.

- Eileen asked if we have class lists yet. Ceida said we got them this weekend from the Parent Portal, and Kara said that for Wild West they've been using last year's lists. Ceida asked if in the future, the PTO could access the Parent Portal earlier to improve communication. Rachel said that state law mandates a certain amount of time for parents to opt out of having their information shared, and this determines the date of access. Erica said that grade-wide social hosts might want to give teachers hard copy invitations to send home in backpacks. Neeti C. asked if dates could be shared in iCal format to make it easier for families to add to their own calendars.
- Registration for musical instrument lessons and rentals is from 6-7:30pm on September 19 at the middle school.
- Ceida said a committee is in place for teacher appreciation lunches.
- Ceida said a committee is in place for the Cradles to Crayons clothing drive, headed up by Farrell Crowley, who will be in touch with Rachel. Rachel said last year student council helped organize and there was an assembly about the drive.
- A volunteer is needed for the Fiske team at the Wellesley Education Foundation spelling bee on 11/2. Harp Bedi and Jay Staunton have volunteered, but need one more adult.

Attendees unanimously elected Harp Bedi and Jay Staunton to School Council.

Wild West update from Kara Thornton

- \$13,000 in sponsorship so far, ahead of last year.
- Need treasure jars and t-shirt orders by end of day Tuesday.
- Need more volunteers, particularly for afternoon shift. Manisha asked how middle and high school Fiske alumni could volunteer; Kara said simply send them the Signup Genius and ask them to write in comments who they are.
- Cookie corral accepting baked goods Friday 9/22 at Chrissy Teschke's house.
- Raffle tickets due by 9/19, along with mugshot and t-shirt orders.
- Everyone should participate and spread the word.
- Neeti said she had trouble finding info she needed to ask her employer for a corporate sponsorship (tax ID etc.). Others said such a form should already exist; Erica will

follow up on making that available, perhaps through Greater Giving.

- Manisha asked if we are up \$1675 from last year, and Kara confirmed.

Principal's coffee scheduled for 9/29; parents can bring anything that's come up in school, any questions.

Ceida said Jacqui Van Looney has been revamping Fiske website, so some things are currently out of place. After Wild West, new website will go up (didn't want to put it up before Wild West and risk confusion).

Manisha adjourned meeting 9:25 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Bellinger, co-secretary