

J.P. MANNING PARENT COUNCIL

10/10/17

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions and Icebreaker were led by PTC Chairs Malikka and Beth
2. Check in with Principal
 - a. Principal was unable to attend the meeting due to being sick.
3. Dance-a-Thon
 - a. Amanda is leading this event and is requesting volunteers on the night of for the following: collecting pledges/donations at the doors, bringing in baked goods/snacks, monitoring, running activities, setting up and breaking down.
 - b. Description of event for new families: this is a school wide dance party, most children/adults will dress up in Halloween costumes, there will be glow sticks and many snacks.
 - c. Possible activities in addition to dancing: face-paint and temporary tattoos. Additional activities should be held in the hallway to add an alternative for space to the dance floor for children to explore that isn't the outdoors.
 - d. Safety concerns were raised due to kids going outdoors at this event during previous years. Decision was made to advertise this as an indoor only event. Note will go home setting the expectation that caregivers will be asked to go outside to monitor their child if their child wanders outside without them.
4. Election Day Bake Sale
 - a. Jenny is leading this event and is requesting volunteers for the following: staffing shifts on election day and bringing in baked goods or other food items to sell (premade take home dinners, soups...).
 - b. To increase fundraising, a second bake sale may be held at another time this year at an alternative location - possibly Forest Hills.
5. Tea Schools Days
 - a. Funds are raised by purchasing clothing with the Manning Code (SDF17MJMANNING) by October 16th.
 - b. Details: 15% off order given, 15% donated to Manning, and free shipping. Purchase at TeaSchoolDays.com.
6. Treasures
 - a. Due to the Principal being sick, they were unable to have their questions answered.
 - b. PTC has almost \$4000 from last year. PTC needs to raise almost \$30,000 this year. Last year, the PTC raised around \$25,000.
 - c. The majority of the funds went to the Music program and Playworks last year so it is likely that the same will be true this year. During the next PTC, more information will be given about where the funds will be applied.
 - d. There was significant discussion concerning hosting a donation link on social media pages for the Manning and concerns about where the funds were going from the donation link on the main website.

- i. People cannot currently get tax write-offs for donating directly to the Manning due to not having 501c3 status. To gain 501c3 status, we need to have by-laws. A by-laws committee will be formed.
 - ii. The donation link on the website is going through BPS funds and then is distributed to us after a small percentage is taken off the top.
 - iii. Victoria and Gabe will investigate more about whether or not we can post our own donation link and how much funds are raised from website link and how they are distributed.
 - e. Annual Appeal
 - i. We need a strong alumni database to include in the annual appeal. Victoria will work on getting the contact information of former families.
 - ii. It is important to write targeted appeal letters for alumni and current families. Anna, the treasurers, and PTC chairs have committee wide support to move forward on drafting and distributing targeted appeal letters.
 - f. Holiday Concert
 - i. Streaming the concert with a donation ask was discussed as a way to supplement annual appeal since it is directly related to the music program which the PTC funds heavily support. Concerns about privacy issues involved in streaming were raised. Erin is going to investigate.
 - ii. Alternative idea is to host a 50/50 raffle at the event.

7. Committees

- a. A volunteer sheet for the various committees and upcoming events was distributed. We will review signs ups and possible gaps at next PTC meeting. Identified committee leaders are listed below.
 - i. Burger Slam: Erin
 - ii. Website/Social media committee: George
 - iii. Lobby Beautification Committee: Jen
 - iv. By-laws committee: George

8. Burger Slam

- a. This is our biggest fundraiser by far; the event raised \$15,000 last year.
- b. We may be moving the location to Boston Nature and are currently investigating the insurance options.
- c. We will need significant volunteers for planning and facilitating this event.

9. Homework

- a. Concerns were raised about the amount of, distribution of and purpose of homework. Homework impacts the entire family and should be treated as such. Possible solutions offered by various PTC members included eliminating homework, making homework optional - up to caregivers discretion, spacing homework out more and making homework interest driven and project based.
- b. Malikka is going to bring the questions raised to the Principal and ask that there is a discussion about this issue with parent, teachers and administration.
- c. A PTC committee may be formed, if necessary, to gather additional information/research but first, the PTC would like to hear about the evidence the Manning teachers are currently using to inform their homework strategy.

10. Elections

- a. Site Council: George Garcia

- b. Citywide Parent Council: Amanda Lapham, Anna Litten
11. Food at PTC meetings
- a. PTC currently spending around \$800 a year for pizza at PTC meetings.
 - b. A discussion took place around whether or not to continue offering pizza or have rotating potlucks.
 - c. Decision was made to only order pizza for the children and have adults bring their own food or eat before/after the meeting.
12. Parking Lot/Next Meeting
- a. Events calendar
 - b. Other fundraising Ideas
 - c. Suggestion box