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**Copper Beech PTA General Meeting
February 20, 2018**

Attendance: 27 members signed in

Board Members in attendance: Dave C., Dottie C., Betsy K., Cathy R., Kristin G., Dana M.

Appendices: January 2017 General Meeting Minutes, January 2017 Budget Final, Principal's Report Agenda, Abington School District letter, NASP Tips for Talking to Children About Violence (2 pages)

Call to Order

- Dave Clark calls the meeting to order at 7:05pm
- January meeting minutes approved and seconded.

New Business

- Background information on the 6th Grade Class Trip – trip is to FunPlex. The total is \$295 over the original budget. Because that amount exceeds the \$250 approval limit for the Board, the general PTA must vote to approve.
- Discussion/Questions
 - Still in need of a 6th grade spring fundraiser coordinator
 - Will email and post to FB the link to the SUG so you can sign-up
- Motion to be made regarding spending an additional \$295 on the 6th Grade Class Trip
 - Motion seconded
- Vote – motion was passed with overwhelming support

President's Report

- National PTA School of Excellence Program update – trying to improve on scores from our questionnaire from the beginning of the year. Topics include parent involvement and communication. We are working on an electronic directory of the school so parents can easily navigate the school. Also working on another newsletter/publication that includes flyers and other documents in one communication to consolidate and simplify. Working on special topics for meetings to keep information flowing.
- Painting w/ a Purpose update – at Painting with a Twist on 3/13 in Jenkintown. We make 50% for each seat. Has the potential to be a great fundraiser.
- Board Positions to be filled (school year '18-'19)
 - VP1, VP3 and Treasurer- if you are interested, please touch base with a Board member. The positions are opened to everyone who is a PTA member. We will reach out to some people who are great volunteers, but anyone interested can step up. Email Dave for more information about the positions.
 - Nominations to be accepted at March and April Meetings

- Elections in May
- 6th Grade Gift (to school and students) – giving the kids a scientific calculator that the kids will need going into the Jr. HS. Gift will also include a drawstring bag with the Abington logo on it. Total gift came in under budget.
- Upcoming Events/ Fundraisers:
 - Name that Tune Social - 3/2/18 – sold 4 tables. Need more participants.
 - 6th Grade Social (SportZone)- 3/2/18
 - Painting with a Purpose - 3/13/18
 - Panera Night (a.k.a. “February” Fundraiser) - 3/14/18 – along with Barnes & Noble Night
 - BNO - 3/23/18
 - Science Fair - 4/5/18
 - Clothing Drive (spring) - 4/21/18, rain date 4/28/18
 - 6th Grade Dance – 5/4/18
 - 6th Grade Sports Fundraiser - 5/19/18 (Philadelphia Soul)
- Events that need a date:
 - 5K and Fun Run/Spring Fair TBD – had to be postponed because the Keep the Parade Running 5k is the date we originally had scheduled. Looking to pair it with the Spring Fair. 5k would be on Friday and Spring Fair on a Saturday. Waiting on approval from the School District.

Board Reports

President Elect – Dottie

- 5K and Fun Run update (see above)
- 6th Grade Class Gift (to students) update (see above)

VP1 – Jason

- Game Night recap – great turnout. Made just under \$800. Jenna Martinson was the first-time coordinator. Thank you!
- Cougar Chronicles update – new CC coming soon. Jason is working on it now. If you would like someone spotlighted, please let Jason know.
- Science Fair update – workshop #2 was before tonight’s PTA meeting. They did a STEM project to get the kids thinking about their projects. Participants are working on finalizing their projects. Need volunteers and judges. If you know anyone in science and technology, let us know. Flyer coming soon.
- Mixed Bags Fundraiser update – order forms and catalogs are out. There are some good items like bags, kitchen items, lunchbox items, etc. Orders are due 2/23. We have roughly \$2k in orders so far. Delivery is around 3/19.

VP2 – Betsy

- GNO recap – had 390 girls who had a great time.

- BNO update – 3/23 from 7-9pm. Flyers should be coming home shortly. Theme is March Madness with Minute to Win it, DJ, and Photo booth. Eat at Riviera that night and the PTA gets 15%.
- 6th Grade Dance update – 5/4 7-9pm at Knights of Columbus
- 6th Grade Socials update – Courtney Clark: SportZone on 3/2 \$15 per student. Still accepting RSVPs. As of last Friday, there were 18 students registered. We need more participants to make it happen. Last social for the year.
- Spring Clothing Drive – 4/21 rain date 4/28 from 9am-3pm in Parking Lot A. Pull up and drop off clothes. Someone will be there to pick them up. We still need a volunteer to be there at pick-up. Bag your shoes separately and we will make more money from them.

VP3 – Tanya

- Publishing Center update – low on volunteers. Posted the need for volunteers to FaceBook last week and there was a good response, but we can always use more people. K-2 kids write and illustrate their own books. The entire process is facilitated through volunteers. All culminates with a publishing party at the end of the year.
- Talent Show update – This Thursday at 7pm. Need volunteers to make baked goods, work the baked goods table, and work the front door.
- Clubs update – 2-3rd grade book club has 5 kids; MOB has 75 kids – next session starts 3/6; Garden Club needs a coordinator for the spring
- Collections - Escripts/ A+ School Rewards via Giant – earned \$1300 from Giant so far. Please keep signing up and shopping. You don't need to renew if you have already signed up.
- Spring Fair – looking at having it on 5/12, the same day that's on the calendar. We just need to get an approved permit so it's not solid quite yet. Hoping to know more later this week. We do have a first-time coordinator but could use a lot more help to make it successful.

Marketing Director – Kristin

- Name that Tune Social update – 3/2. There's more room so please consider purchasing a table with your friends. We will not reschedule this time. There are a lot of raffle baskets so come on out and win!
- Membership update – currently have 300 PTA members.
- Funding Factory update – are looking into a new program because we're not really making enough money. If you know a good place to donate ink and toner cartridges, please let us know. It's free money for the PTA.
- We have childcare during PTA meetings to please spread the word so we can get more people to attend.
- Join the Copper Beech PTA Facebook group if you're not already a member. It's a great place for information and to ask questions.
- Directories are no longer going to be paper after this year. Next year we're moving to a more intuitive online program for the directory. The new one costs less and is more user friendly.
- Burn Brae Day Camp sponsors our current online directory and posts.

Recording Secretary – Dana

- Roller Skating social recap – all school social at Rolling Thunder Skating Rink was on 1/21.
- Garden Club update / Grant update –We applied for a \$2000 Garden Grant through the Whole Kids Foundation. Originally the notification date was 2/15 but they moved it to March 1st so we should know by the next meeting.
- 6th Grade Class T-shirt update – Each year the 6th grade class gets to design their own shirt.
 - T-shirts have arrived and the kids will be getting them next week on the day of their class photo so everyone can wear theirs. Anyone who ordered extra T-shirts will get them sent home the same day the kids receive theirs.
- Yearbook update – the all school yearbook team has been working hard to create a beautiful book of memories for our kids.
 - 6 parents busy at work
 - The entire 6th grade section is being handled by the students and Mrs. Heidik and two additional teacher helpers. The kids would give up recess. They need volunteers the weeks of March 5th and March 12th (M, T, Th) from 12:35-1:05 pm so please contact Courtney Clark or Mrs. Heidek. You will need some training to use the yearbook software.
 - If you have photos, please share! Some events like field day won't be in there because we have to have the book to the publisher before those events take place.
 - At the bottom of all class pages there are candid shots. The teachers don't always have time to take pictures so please send anything you have to Courtney. We also appreciate you spreading the word to parent liaisons so we can get as many great photos as possible.
 - Yearbook to publisher by 4/23
 - 6th grade activity fee does not include the yearbook. There are many more pages of 6th graders in the all-school yearbook.
 - Yearbooks are \$20 if ordered before Mid-March. After that the price goes up to \$25.
- 6th grade fee covers: shirts, 2 dances, 2 socials, 6th grade gifts, class trip, end of year party, promotion ceremony, etc. We spend \$80+ on each 6th grade student. Second requests for the 6th grade activity fee are going out again.
- Some parents asked if we could provide yearbook grants for those 6th grade students who could not afford to purchase one on their own.

Treasurer – Cathy

- January State PTA Membership – at 99% of our goal
- 6th Grade Activity Fees update – at 75% of our goal
- On the budget is shows the transfers from PayPal and checking to savings account
- Cash box needs and/or checks for Feb and March events - talent show needs 2 cash boxes. If anyone else needs please put in a form.
- Budget meetings are happening with the Board. Proposed budgets come out in the May meeting. If you would like to provide input, please do it when the proposed budget comes out.

Future dates to be mindful of

- PTA General Meeting Dates: 3/20/18, 4/17/18, 5/23/18 and 6/5/18

Dr. Viola – Principal Report

- School safety – staff is trained annually and drills throughout the year. The school district works with the Abington PD. There was recently an unannounced lockdown drill with a member of the ASD. A letter went out to the entire school district about school safety. Remember that parents play an important role in talking to your children. Contact Dr. Viola with any questions or concerns. Anything we can do to improve safety should be looked at.
- Two handouts about how to speak to young children about these situations were provided. It's a sensitive topic so please look at the age appropriate conversation starters.
- We have two agencies who speak with students to provide social and emotional support for topics such as social, family, conflict resolution, and friendship. If parents are interested in learning more, please contact the school. We're 1 of 2 schools with this service in the area.
- DARE has started with 6th grade students.
- Today the cast of the high school production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* did a preview of the show and spoke about bullying.
- Mid-March we will have the second CB Cares Award for the kids who retained their Golden Tickets.
- Spring photos are next week.
- School-wide reading incentive program: One-story, one-school focuses on a book called *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and comes in a picture book and a chapter book. Teachers are doing read-a-louds in March. Some of the cast from the Lion King will sing songs.
- Parent teacher conferences are coming soon. Appointment schedules will be coming home.
- PSAAs are in April. This year the number of testing days has been reduced.

Teacher report

- No faculty at the meeting

Announcements

- Can some of the reserve funds be spent on buying yearbooks for kids who can't afford it.
- Some of the struggle of pulling together coordinators could be because the funds are pooled together vs. having a 6th grade fund. If the kids knew they were working towards a fundraising goal, they would take ownership.
 - There is one account because we are only insured for one bank account.
 - The PTA also needs to follow specific superintendent budget guidelines.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm