

Hardy PTO Minutes

November 17, 2011

Attendees: Kelly Friendly, Michelle Durkin, Ingrid Houghton, Alexa O'Toole, Julia Fantasia, Jenni Colone, Kerri Boyle, Lisa Dalrymple, Kelly Weene, Nova Biro, Karen McAdams, Heidi DeLollis

Ø **Approval of Minutes:**

- 10/19/11 meeting minutes approved

Ø **Treasurer's Report:**

- Book Fair a success. Brought in \$2500.
- Portrait Session popular with more sessions added. Brought in \$1200
- Amazon/Target continues to send checks. Made \$330 for both since Sept. Michelle started pdf file to make it easy to go to Hardy website and click to get to Amazon and automatically receive Hardy benefit for shopping. Many people still don't know about this. Try to talk it up to friends and include in Hardy Headlines.
- Friends of Wellesley Metco program helps supplement funds for Metco kids. Average donation is usually \$700 - \$1000 per school. Hardy donates \$700.00. Do we want to increase? Decided to increase to \$800.00 for this town-wide organization and \$400.00 for Hardy teachers to use just for Hardy Metco students.

Ø **C.A.S. Update:**

- PTO to consider helping to fund town wide fieldtrips as well as fieldtrip related supplies for classroom that parents are currently paying for such as eggs and terrariums.
- Try to get list from other schools of which field trips their PTO covers. We could maybe ask parents for \$20.00 to cover whole year of fieldtrips and PTO covers the rest. Write memo to Hardy community explaining that some fieldtrips are town wide and others are covered by C.A.S. PTO can cover right now while we have the funds. Ask Marybeth to talk with teachers.

Ø **Small Grant Proposal:**

- Do we want to submit a small grant proposal? In 2007 the PTO had a grant line.
- Pitch it as small or new things/projects to do in classroom, things that the kids have taken an interest in and need the means to explore it. Only can use for **new projects** unless you're a new teacher.

Ø **Small Grant Proposal: (continued)**

- Need to write up formal document outlining difference between teacher discretionary funds and funds for small grant. Teacher discretionary is already covered (wipes, tissues, snacks, etc. for classroom)
- Should we extend grant to specialist too?
- Create subcommittee to sort this program out. Ingrid , Chrissy, Nova, Alexa, Michelle? Hold meeting in mid to late January to sort out details and outline differences between CAS funds, Teacher Discretionary funds and Small Grant Proposal funds. Contact Rhonda Dew who was PTO president in 2007 to get her input. At initial meeting, Jenni should also be there and Marybeth as well.

Ø **Author in Residence in Second Semester:**

- Great feedback from teachers regarding first semester of Author in Residence program as well as the Brown Bag Book Club. Now other schools are interested in program too!
- Teachers did say having it for 8 weeks in classroom was disruptive so if we do a 2nd semester, take it out of classroom.
- We could continue The Brown Bag Book Club. Ben said he could do it. Do back-to-back session so no children are turned down and maybe add workshops. He's a huge history buff so we could tie that into the program. Meet Ben at Freedom Trail on a weekend?
- Jared is a lot pricier. Teachers said he has been geared more towards the younger grades so maybe we could hold seminar for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades specializing in illustration. Do it for each grade in one day.

Ø **Implementing Suggestions from Survey:**

- Send out findings – summary and analysis.
- Nova to set-up meeting with Marybeth to discuss subcommittee.
- Send out memo to Hardy Community inviting them to discuss findings of survey and to brainstorm about ways to implement ideas. Maybe tie it into a nighttime PTO end-of -year wrap up meeting
- Two topics to discuss are: (1.) Internet Safety (2.) How to discuss a book with kids – book clubs.

Ø **Central Council Update:**

- Full day kindergarten in Wellesley? You can e-mail Bella Wong your opinion. All principals and 70% of teachers are for it.
- POPs did presentation. Raised a lot of money. Need special new grand piano.

Ø **Check Ins:**

- Hardy Apparel – maybe put extra stuff out on table after school to sell.
- Teacher appreciation – Brought in Qdoba and teachers loved it! Kids love being involved. Ask Martha to maybe make a calendar for the year and each month a grade gets to be involved in teacher appreciation.
- Movie Night – late January or February. Movie in gym, toddlers in library. Parents can't just drop off children, they need to be supervised.
- Love Your Library – Bring back "dedicate a book" program on student's birthdays. Include Amazon.
- Painting/Organizing Basement – get Dads involved with painting. Keri Boyle volunteered her husband, Andrew to take this on.