

JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA, INC.
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13th, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

President Tiffany Gershon called this meeting to order at 7:09 pm. She then led the members in attendance in the flag salute.

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR:

-Introductions were made. Tiffany apologized for the meeting being held in the hot multi purpose room but we wanted a larger room since we expected a lot of people. Tiffany stated it was a great turn out and encouraged everyone to please keep coming back to meetings!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Tiffany Gershon stated that she had a goal of the PTA being more fun for us and the kids and to build up our school community. We had a great year last year so we have a nice amount of money in the budge to spend on things to enrich the kids' year. She is looking into getting new basketball hoops, soccer goals, an art mural, a mascot, etc. We are also going to be having our first ever block party to kick off the new year and Tiffany states she is excited for it and is looking forward to welcoming everyone. We are also looking to have an ice skating party this year, it will be free for the students and a charge for parents and siblings. We also have a new fundraiser, the APEX run as well as our Tricky Tray, these 2 events are expected to be a lot of fun and also bring in a great amount of money for our school community. Tiffany has been talking to the school board about new playground equipment and is looking into the logistics as far as who is paying for what. Elaine Griffin stated that she would help Tiffany with this endeavor. The concern is that if we pay for something we won't get reimbursed, but if we order thru the district, we also may not get to choose what we'd like.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Kim Jeannette stated:

Kim realized that the 5th grade committee line item was missing for the budget so she will correct and update it before it gets voted on at Back to School Night.

Dawn Costantini asked for a slight increase in the Reflections budget, she thinks about \$300 will be fine and will send the info to Kim.

Hillary McWhorter asked if we could increase the Book Fair budget since we're going to have 2 again this year, in Fall and Spring, she said approximately \$350.

We are also going to create a Social Responsibility Committee to help with SpiritWear, etc for kids in need. Elaine Griffin and Patrick Mackey volunteered to work on this.

Theresa Miller asked for a bit more in budget for Beautification so that they could buy some items that re-usable and they would be a one time cost.

Total Income: \$39,300 Total Revenue: \$64,097 Expenses: \$32,352 Start Up Cash: \$31,745

NEW BUSINESS:

Audit – Sandy Gallucci stated that the Audit would be complete by the end of the weekend, there was an error in the register, numbers were transposed, but everything is accounted for and she plans to submit on Monday after finalizing.

Social Responsibility – Patrick Mackey asked about the PTA paying for school lunches for those in need. Mr. Bookholt is going to look into this.

Budget – Will be reviewed and passed at back to school night.

Room Reps – There will be a new process this year for room reps. Room Reps will still be expected to attend the monthly PTA meetings, as they are responsible for passing on info to their class parents. They also must be paid in full members of the PTA. Only 1 Room Rep will be assigned per field trip this year. The other slot will be a lottery. It's possible a Room Rep will be chosen in the lottery but it is not guaranteed. Room Reps will no longer be responsible for providing snacks/water/paper products for the 4 parties. The committee is going to purchase all of it and provide to the Room Reps. We are also going to provide a book as a gift to the children at the Winter Party and the End of the Year Party by using Scholastic Dollars. The Room Reps can use their budget money to plan/run a game or craft during the parties and submit a check request for reimbursement.

Apex Run – a fun new fundraiser for this year! Kickoff will be 10/29. More details to come!

Membership (Sandy Gallucci) – Cards will be electronic, our membership card will be e-mailed to you. The new website is much more user friendly with more capabilities. The board didn't get worked on til late because of the construction at the school but they got in as soon as they could and it looks great. We currently have 88 members paid in full, everyone is asked to get their form and dues in ASAP.

FUNDRAISING/ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fundraising will continue all year.

Book Fair – the theme from Scholastic is “Enchanted Forrest – Let Your Imagination Grow”. The committee is looking forward to having fun with theme. Book Fair will again be held during conference week. We are trying to not conflict with Apex Run and Tricky Tray also. Set up will be 10/18, Friday is teacher preview, the committee is going to try something new this year and give the teachers a box to fill instead of them having to write their wish lists on slips of paper. They are also looking into online options. Wish lists for K-2 will be on Friday, Family Night will be on Monday from 6-8pm, Monday will also be wish list day for 3-5. Tuesday thru Thursday will be shopping days. The committee will also be selling pencil grams at back to school night which will go to the All for Books fund. Since we had 2 book fairs last year, we will receive 55% of profit in Scholastic Dollars. Hillary wanted people to know that with the 2 book fairs, kids got over \$17,000 in books last year!

Barnes & Noble Night – 12/5/18 – the contracts are being reviewed, the committee will ask the Music Teacher about the kids singing again this year and will also ask Teachers about reading and doing a suggested reading list so we can have a table of books to offer for parents to choose from when buying.

Beautification – Erin Andahazy asked that parents send in any unwanted reusable holiday decorations so that we could use them to decorate the school

Reflections – (Dawn Costantini) – This is a national PTA program that highlights 5 categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, music production, photography visual arts. The theme is “Heros All Around Me”. Dawn is happy to bring this program back

to Alexander and encourages the children to submit their work. Tentatively looking for a date of 12/14 for the art show.

Parents Night Out – 10/20/18 – 4-8pm – (Michelle Graunbaum) – It will be \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door per person. That gets you food and 2 drinks. Additional food and beverages will be for sale. The flyer will go home in early October. We encourage parents to attend and get to know their school community members.

Dances – (Kristine D'Ambrosio) - paperwork has been submitted and approved. We will have a Winter and Spring Dance on 12/14 and 12/29.

Spirit Wear – (Lisa Gray) – The committee would like to incorporate PJ's for the fall sale so that parents can buy for the holidays. They are looking to do online ordering this year and will start at Back to School Night.

Tricky Tray – 3/15/19 @ Steinert – (Lori Hutchins) – it seems far off but we have to start planning now to get all of our items in! There will be a meeting at Lori's house on 10/24 for anyone looking to be a party of the committee. It's a fun event and we have a lot of fun planning it as well.

Not Just Clothing Drive – we will hold this fundraiser sometime this year but we do not yet have a date. Parents are encouraged to clean out their clothes and donate clothes, toys, and other similar items. The school will get a % based on how much is collected.

Mum Sale – 9/17 – 9/28, pick up is 10/5 – (Sandy Gallucci) – the flyer is going home tomorrow. Sandy could use volunteers to help with pick up.

Trunk or Treat – 10/26/17 – Plans are underway for our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat. It was a big success this year and we can't wait for this year's fun night.

Gift Card Sales – forms will go home in early November

Yearbook – we have a new company this year, TreeRing. We will do online orders as well as forms at Back to School Night. Parents will be able to customize 2 pages of the yearbook with their own pictures, there is also an app to load your pics. The committee encourages everyone to take a lot of pictures at school events and email them to 2019alexanderyearbook@gmail.com. Try to get pictures with 3 or more kids.

Write a Check Campaign – this is ongoing throughout the year. It was discussed to possibly change the name as it could seem off putting to parents. We may want to spread the word that we do this instead of having many smaller fundraisers throughout the year that people don't seem to enjoy, such as selling wrapping paper, candles, etc.

Kid Stuff Books – We are bringing this back this year. The company also now has an App! Making it very easy to use the coupons. Books will be on the desks at Back to School Night. They are giving us the following incentives: Sell 3 books, get a T shirt with the School Logo, sell 5 books, get 1 book free plus a long sleeve T shirt, sell 10 books and get 2 free books plus a sweatshirt.

TEACHERS REPORT:**Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Callahan**

- Start of school going well
- Back to school night, a note for kindergarten parents: The Kindergarten teachers start a little earlier than all the rest and parents should arrive at 6:15.
- The teachers stated that we had already answered the questions that they had.

PRINCIPALS REPORT:**Mr. Bookholt**

- Great opening of the year, even with the construction
- Bathrooms still need a little more work, they are still replacing interior doors.
- Health & Safety – the reps will be Tiffany Gershon and Erin Andahazy
- Brain Pop – this site is used by all of our teachers but the district has stopped paying for it. Mr. Bookholt asked if it would be possible for the PTA to include the cost in our budget for next year, it's approximately \$2,400. The PTA is going to research and see if we could possibly fund it for this year.
- Picture Day will be 10/1 and 10/2
- Thank You to the PTA for all of the fun upcoming events we have planned

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Back to School Night – 9/24
- Picture Day – 10/1 and 10/2
- Book Fair – 10/19 – 10/25
- Parents Night Out – 10/20
- Tricky Tray Committee Meeting – 10/24
- Trunk or Treat – 10/26
- Barnes & Noble Night – 12/5
- Winter Dance – 12/14

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Submitted by:**Theresa Timian****Recording Secretary**