

PAL Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

Introductions of people present (attendees did sign in on separate form)

Maggie Clifford, Ashley Hass (substitute secretary for Jamie Walther - absent), Yvonne LeBlanc, Wendy Wallus, Megan Chartier, Gina Carey, Mary Hodgins, Frances Mitchell, Susan Snyder

Review of minutes from last meeting- informal summer meeting to prepare for the new year

Discussion of Budget- Budget for Aug 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023 hasn't been established yet
Review of profit & loss report. NH Gaming income was significant contribution to budget (\$6,463.44) and PAL will continue to apply to participate in this program. Application will need to be resubmitted every year.

Expense of t-shirts for incoming Kindergarteners was included in the Back to School expenses on this budget breakdown but will be taken out.

There will be a separate meeting next month by the board to establish budget to present at the general meeting.

Susan Snyder present to give administration update.

Two visiting authors are coming to the school this fall

Trudy Ludwig is traveling from Oregon to hold a student assembly for grades K-5. She is also doing a presentation for teachers and presentation for parents. Joe Manzi has agreed for the Rec department to provide free child care at the school for parents who want to attend the parent presentation on October 12. She asked PAL if we would be willing to donate pizza for the kids at that time, hoping to support parents by making it easy for them to attend this important presentation. PAL voted and unanimously approve purchase of pizzas for Oct 12.

Susan also presents the option of PAL using book sales from the visiting author as a fundraiser.

Trudy Ludwig offers to sell her books at 40% off as part of this presentation. Administration and PAL discussed possibility of the savings from that discount going to PAL.

Concerns discussed include the logistical sides of how parents would pay, how the money would get transferred to PAL, and how books would be ordered/delivered. Other concerns included the accessibility of the books if sold at full price. The idea would be to get more books into more kids' hands, so allowing parents to take advantage of that 40% off discount would be best for that cause. PAL decided to not go forward with using this as a fundraising opportunity, but is willing to support the program by providing pizza, helping to spread word, and organizing books sales as needed.

Susan is going to confirm the 40% discount offer and PAL will look at creating a link/QR code for ordering.

Visiting author Ellie Schwartz is coming this fall for middle school grades. Her presentation might involve items similar to Trudy Ludwig. The Trudy Ludwig visit has been paid for with grant money, but PAL may be asked to fund the Ellie Schwartz visit.

Susan Snyder updated on curriculum night and confirming dates and times. It was decided to ask Joe Manzi if rec could offer childcare for that evening as well.

PAL Facebook page will put a reminder about Curriculum Night and will include that it is a parents only event and will reinforce times

Susan also said Artist in Residence program is expected to return, possibly involving the nature trail. It was asked if students would be making up field trips that they missed due to covid restrictions. Susan said that for some of the larger trips/experiences, they have been working on ways to have classes make up those missed opportunities. But for the majority of more typical day field trips, it isn't possible to have all grades make up those missed trips.

Megan Chartier speaks on enrichment topics.

Is it possible to order staff shirts to have on hand for incoming teachers or teachers who need to update a shirt if they received theirs years before. PAL agreed this would be a good method of ensuring each staff member has an NHS shirt.

The Sunshine Committee also asked about baby onesies/clothes for Spirit Wear to gift teachers when they have a baby. Baby clothes and dog bandanas/accessories are suggestions that will be looked into in adding to the spirit wear orders. Frances will look into pricing of staff shirts and update at next meeting. Fliers for the October Spirit Wear drive will go out (tentatively) Nov 3. Meghan also suggested teacher stipends in the form of gift cards. Teachers would need to provide receipts for items they purchase with PAL stipend. There are currently 42 total teachers/contracted service providers- 19 classroom teachers

Susan Snyder reminded PAL that teachers have opportunities to go through administration or apply for grant money before turning to PAL for their classroom needs.

Fingerprinting reminder- any parent who wishes to volunteer or chaperone needs to have their fingerprinting done. We have been told by some parents that there is currently a bit of a back log with this, so people should do it sooner rather than later.

Teacher Appreciation options- events like the food truck are hugely appreciated and enjoyed, but also can be difficult to coordinate and quite costly. Teachers appreciate the smaller gestures/ events and goodies donated by families just as much.

Morning of October 19, PAL will run a "stuff the staff room" event. PAL will establish a sign up genius for parents to donate items (snacks, drinks, candy, etc.) Ashley Hass will be available to help set up that morning.

Trunk or Treat October 21st with a rain date of Oct 28. Megan would like help setting up for that event. Frances will contact Dunkin about hot chocolate. Voting procedure should be altered this year to ensure fairness. Megan may ask a group of 8th grade students to join her in a voting panel.

PAL would like to offer "community nights" at restaurants once a month (where portion of the proceeds go to the fundraising.) Whym may be able to be included in this- Maggie is going to reach out to them with more clarification.

There is a question posed of the student directory, if it is still worth creating for families. Consensus was that it is very useful for new families in particular and people enjoy having the contact info of their kids' classmates, so we should continue to create the directory.

A color run is proposed as a new fundraiser event- maybe something to look into for spring PAL will make their meeting outline available so parents can see what topics will be discussed before they attend. Wendy is going to work on posting more material and being more active on the PAL Facebook account so that the posts are more likely to come across people's feeds.

Co-Chairs: Sherri Clerk & Maggie Clifford

Enrichment Coordinator: Megan Chartier

Treasurer: Maureen Fritz

Secretary: Jamie Walther

Members at Large: Wendy Wallus & Frances Mitchell