



Springer PTA Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2017

Next Meeting: February 13, 2017

Attendees: Mike Bensinger, James Hanby, Micki Hanby, Jason Hale, Kathy Heller, Jason Heller, Joell Miller, Ann Hall Nefferdorf, Alison Oldham, Michelle Olkowski, Donna Rittenhouse, Kristine Woodruff, Tracy Woodson

Discussion Points

1. Welcome – James R. Hanby, Sr.
 - a. Thank you all for coming out. It's cold.
 - b. Brief Dance Meeting post PTA meeting. Everyone is welcome
2. Minutes – Alison Oldham
 - a. November 2016 minutes were approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report – Jason Heller**
 - a. November and December reports were provided during the meeting and are attached.
 - b. Financial Review completed and submitted by due date on 11/15th.
 - c. Treasurer's Report was approved.
4. **Principal's Update:** Dr. Woodson provided updates, and notes below:
 - a. December 2016
 - i. December Concerts were outstanding and the auditorium was packed each night.
 - ii. Springer Middle School was cited by the AVID Organization as a Highly Certified Site
 - iii. Springer Middle School received a Certificate of Compliance to the Delaware Omnibus School Safety Act from Mr. James Mosley, Cabinet Secretary, DE Department of Homeland Security.
 - iv. The Annual Winter Book Fair was extremely successful. We will have a similar event in the spring.
 - b. January 2017
 - i. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be scheduled by Grade Level for students that are failing or have multiple disciplinary infractions prior to the start of the second semester.
 - ii. The Administration and Teachers have begun to discuss the upcoming Monthly Grade Level Bullying program for staff and students. The overriding theme is "What

is Bullying? – What does it look like? Sound like? Feel like? What do we do about it?”

- iii. We will have monthly Teacher Wellness programs in an effort to reduce teacher stress.
 - iv. Business Classes will be visiting the Junior Achievement site in Wilmington on 1/11 and 1/12.
 - v. Springer Middle School will have its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 16th from 8AM – 12 Noon. This is a student run event. We are asking our community to bring lightly used clothes, coats, shoes, boots, blankets and canned goods. All items will be sorted and then donated to local shelters and community groups and coats will be donated to homeless shelters.
 - vi. Second Marking Period Report Cards will be distributed to students on February 1, 2017. Attached to the report card will be the Delaware School Climate Survey 2016-2017 for the parent to complete. Feedback is crucial - A sample is attached.
 - vii. The auditorium screen has been replaced (due to a rip in the screen). The curtains are scheduled to also be replaced.
 - viii. The gymnasium floors will be stripped and waxed during the Spring Break timeframe. Pickle ball courts will be added to the main gym floor.
 - ix. The Staff and Students have collected \$1100 to be donated to the Gift of Life Foundation this year. This is the organization that the Staff and Students have chosen as their Springer Cares program to support.
 - x. Springer is collaborating with Senior Boys from Brandywine High School to mentor young men at Springer Middle School through our Real Men Read Program.
 - xi. Chess is coming back to Springer starting on January 17th from 3:00PM – 4:20PM for 20 students for an 8-10 week trial program.
- c. Dr. Woodson and parents discussed the Car Line change to one lane. In November, a child was almost hit. In order to ensure Child safety, it is necessary to make this change. Dr. Woodson agreed to send the instructions with the report cards. Parents also discussed the 2 mile walk rule. This is a Delaware State Law, and needs to be discussed at that level.
 - d. Dr. Woodson mentioned that the PTA will be helping to support the purchase of K-9 vests for the Wilmington Police Department. See PTA Grants section.

5. James Hanby reviewed PTA Grants. They are as follows and they all were approved:

- a. 7th Grade Science garden
 - i. Teacher Name: Maureen Romeo, Dave Brown, Caitlin Gibbons
 - ii. Grade or Club impacted: 7th Grade Science students
 - iii. Amount sought: \$500
 - iv. Brief Description of the purpose of the grant: This grant will fund the usual expenses of getting our garden going as is usually supported by the Springer PTA this will cover the cost for compost in the spring as well as the needed supplies for our harvest celebrations.
- b. HERstory Book Club
 - i. Teacher Name: Ann Hall-Nefferdorf

- ii. Grade or Club impacted: Book Club
 - iii. Amount sought: \$300 (\$200 towards books and \$100 for snack and other expenses)
 - iv. Brief Description of the purpose of the grant: The grant will allow for the purchase of books to be used in the book club called HERstory Book Club, focusing on historical fiction novels that feature strong female characters. I would like to be able to purchase 8-10 copies of each book so that anyone who wishes to take part can and nobody would be turned away because they couldn't afford the book.
 - v. During the Meeting, Mrs. Hall-Nefferdorf mentioned that she plans to reuse the books year after year. While the first set of books was purchased with her own money, this grant would help with the next round and I would come back in the future for additional grants until we have enough books to last through the year.
- c. **Zoology Grant**
- i. Teacher Name: Janet Mammen, Jonathan Sypher
 - ii. Grade or Club impacted: 200 science students
 - iii. Amount sought: \$1230
 - iv. Brief Description of the purpose of the grant: This grant will fund semester long zoology classes in covering the cost of material for making calamari, squid for dissection, bird seed, Jungle John 's reptile show.
- d. **Wilmington Police Department K-9 Unit Grant**
- i. James mentioned dogs visited the school on 12/9. The vests are the equivalent of a bullet proof vests for officers. While Springer is donating some money, PTA will pay the rest, by making a donation to the agency which supports the purchase of the vests. Each vests is custom made.
 - ii. Teacher Name: Dr. Tracy Woodson
 - iii. Grade or Club impacted: Entire School and BSD Community
 - iv. Amount sought: \$1100
 - v. Brief Description of the purpose of the grant: This grant will fund the purchase of three vests for three new members of the Wilmington Police Department's K-9 unit. These new dogs are in training now and visited Springer in December to show all the students what the work of the K-9 unit involved. The Wilmington Police K-9 unit also attended and supported Springer's 9-11 service earlier this school year.
 - vi. These dogs become their handler's partners and treated just as any other police officer would be. These vests are the dog version of the police bullet proof vest.
- e. **Virtual Reality Goggles Grant**
- i. Teacher Name: Thomas Pidgeon and Crystal Bostick
 - ii. Grade or Club impacted: 6th Grade Social Studies
 - iii. Amount sought: \$300.00
 - iv. Brief Description of the purpose of the grant: We are seeking a grant to purchase 15 virtual reality goggles for use in the classroom. This allows students to take a field trip to places around the world without ever leaving the classroom. Each pair costs \$20 and we are

seeking to buy 15 for a total out lay of \$300. We are really excited about bringing the world to our students at a fraction of the cost of travel.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report – December 31, 2016 and November 30, 2016

Teachers Grant Paperwork

Delaware School Climate Survey Sample 2016-2017