

**Springer Middle School PTA
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 11, 2017 – 6:30 PM
Springer Middle School Library**

Call to Order *Jason Heller at 6:35*

Approval of November 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes *as posted to SpringerPTA.org - motion and seconded*

Monthly Financial Report *Kristine Woodruff - as posted on SpringerPTA.org*

Teacher Liaison Report - *Mr. Xenakes -*

- *interims closing out this week - will be distributed Dec 21*
- *6th Grade field trip to see the movie Wonder - followed up with lessons on bullying*
- *Some 7th and 8th grade classes also had a field trip to see the movie - parent comment that she wishes all students could have taken part in the field trip*

President's Report *Jason Heller*

- *Outstanding encumbered funds of \$7215*
- *BoE Meeting Recap - I was not able to attend the November BoE meeting*
- *Please remember to order Spirit Wear for holiday gifts and shop online using our Amazon Smile link!*

Committee Reports:

- *Membership - Kim Williams - slowing down - 4 new members last month. at 170 members- 55 which are staff*
- *Fundraising*
 - *Restaurant Nights - Christy Tobin - next one Thursday at Grub Burger Bar all day - no need for vouchers, just mention Springer at checkout- Shelly has been amazing at coordination this year*
 - *Joe Corbi's (Kristine Woodruff) - no updates*
 - *Barnes & Noble Book Fair (Kathy Heller) -waiting on totals. Thanks to the bulldog for coming and the the parents and students who volunteered*
 - *Box Tops - Thanks to Carla Riccadi for chairing. Contest to be held in February*
 - *60th Anniversary - James Hanby - Anniversary is in Feb - but doing celebrations in March secondary to the weather. There will be events for alumni and current students. History of Mr. Springer.*

Member Comments

- *Mr Xenakes - parents have asked about chorus and band concerts being held at a high school or somewhere larger so that more parents can fit in the auditorium. Better parking. Concerns regarding grandparents being stuck in the lobby. Mr. Rolph (Brandywine H.S. principle) shared that we can come to Brandywine High school with double the amount of seating. Stated to check with Anne Marie Fitzgerald at district offices to arrange.*
- *When do we have to nominate Teacher of the Year? Every school does it differently. Process usually starts in Spring - will need to clarify with Dr Woodson*

Old Business:

- *Large scale project - decided on Chromebooks to improve accessibility for testing. Got a few quotes - district contract provides best pricing. We would like to approve to buy up to 40 Chromebooks, licensing, etc. Would like to approve motions to allow for up to \$10,000 to pay for Chromebooks, cart and licensing. Not a budgeted item, so we need member approval. Motion made by James Hanby, second my Mr. Xenakes. No oppositions, all approved*

- Future of the Springer PTA update - since the last meeting:
 - Met with Tally's PTO president. They did leave the PTA at the end of last year and are in the process of forming a new organization. Nothing additional to share. They have not started the 501c3 process yet.
 - Met with an attorney specialization in non-profit law (Thomas Reed) who will be our corporate attorney for the new organization pro bono and represent us, if needed, in the dissolution. He will handle all of the incorporating, IRS filings, creation of by-laws etc. for the new organization as well as the legal dissolution of the current organization. Signed a retainer so he can start working. We have received drafts of our certificate of incorporation, corporate bylaws, pre-incorporation minutes and post-incorporation minutes for the board to review.
 - The State PTA is entitled to any remaining funds left in our account after dissolution.
 - Attorney's suggestions:
 - Start formation & incorporation of the new entity immediately.
 - Existing officers plus Dr. Woodson will be the interim 'start up' board for the new association. We will vote on all officer positions for the new association at the annual meeting in May.
 - Should have non-profit determination from the IRS by March 2018. Donations are allowed immediately as the non-profit determination will be retroactive to the corporation's start date.
 - Start up costs do have to be paid by the individual incorporating member personally for reimbursement once there are funds in the organization's account (~\$100 in incorporation fees + \$400 in IRS filing fees)
 - Special meeting for the Dissolution vote of the PTA will be on January 29th to end the PTA affiliation at the end of the fiscal year on 6/30/18
 - Organizations will run side-by-side until the end of the year to ramp up the new association and phase out the current allowing fundraisers to be run by the new association to build initial funds to lead into the new year
 - Obligations of the PTA will still be able to be met - including any funds already encumbered for projects this year
 - The new board met and voted to move forward with Incorporation of a new non-profit organization to be known as the 'Springer Middle School Family Association'. The certificate of Incorporation will be filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware this week.
 - The PTA board will present an updated budget at the January meeting for approval to represent the changes that are expected so that we are operating off of a realistic picture of the finances through the end of the year.
 - Member questions:
 - Memberships - everyone who is a member of the PTA will also be a member of the Springer Middle School Family Association until the end of this school year. Then membership will proceed as always with an annual membership drive.
 - Can we transfer money from one organization to the new organization? No, but with the money that has already been approved by the members, we will be very close to zero after paying out the money that has been allotted.
 - Kenny Rivera, Assistant principal Brandywine High School- recently helped his kids school transition to PTO from PTA. Had a lot of push back from Delaware PTA. Will be happy to share his experiences and information with us.
 - Pleshette Moore also did this with her previous school in Rhode Island - fully supports the transition to PTO
 - Is the National PTA decreasing? Yes, this was presented at last meeting. Trend is going towards PTO. Close to 60% of the schools are not a member of the PTA.
 - This has been in discussion for the last few years. We are raising money for the school, but have to sent part of the hard earned money to the national organization. No money will have to be sent outside of the school to a higher organization. We will be our own

independent organization.

New Business: Still looking for a treasurer for the new organization. Kristine is graduating to Brandywine High School next year.

Special Presentation – School Choice by Dr. Hale & Mr. Rolph

Adjournment - at 8:26

Upcoming Events (*a list of all upcoming events can be found at SpringerPTA.org*):

12/14/17 – Grub Burger Day

12/22/17-1/2/18 – Winter Break

1/9/17 -PTA MEETING

1/10/18 Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Day

2/15/18 – Night at Sweet Nels

2/23/18 – Springer Fun Night

Respectfully Submitted -

Kathy Heller, Secretary

PTA Meeting
December 11, 2017

Principal's Notes

Information presented by Mr. X - Dr Woodson absent

Principal Meeting

Delaware School Success Framework Update

Springer Middle School averages 3 out of 5 stars in the following areas:

Academic Achievement

Proficiency ELA

Proficiency in Mathematics

Proficiency in Science

Proficiency in Social Studies

Growth

Growth in ELA

Growth in Mathematics

Average Daily Attendance

College and Career Preparation

Growth to Proficiency in ELA

Growth to Proficiency in Mathematics

Currently Tracking students with Chronic Absenteeism (i.e., students with ten or more absences)

Administration is looking for incentive ideas for the following state assessments:

Incentives for STAR and Smarter Balance Assessments

Incentives for Science and Social Studies DCAS Assessments

Staff & Building concerns

Need a Full-Time Psychologists

Crisis Drill #2 Due 12/15

PBS / After School Programs

Energy Audit Club - audit done with John Reed and students- results pending

Making Proud Choices Program (Boys and Girls) w/ Christiana Care

Christmas Gifts for Springer Families

Math Help Started 12/7 (by Grade / by Subject)

Peer Tutoring

Adapted Art for our students in the ILP (Max Levenson)

GPS Club to Sunrise Senior Center