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| **Date:** 01/12/2017 | **Time:** 6:30 pm | **Location**: Dondero Library |

**Purpose:** This is the 4th General PTA Meeting of the 2016-17 school year.

**Executive Board Attendees/Invitees**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Present** | **Contact** | **Capacity** |
| Shannon Harrison | Yes | shandobie@comcast.net | President, Meeting Host |
| Michele Aronne | Yes | micheleg229@comcast.net | Vice President |
| Melissa Vetter | Yes | mvetter79@gmail.com | Treasurer |
| Brooke Sokolnicki | Yes | brookesokolnicki@gmail.com | Secretary |
| Kate Callahan | Yes | kcallahan@portsmouth.k12.nh.us | Principal |

**Agenda**

1. Welcome, Introductions and Thank You
2. Approval of Nov. 2016 Meeting Minutes
3. Principal Report – Kate Callahan
   1. Kindergarten Request – Forest Friday’s
4. Treasurer’s Update – Melissa
   1. Deposits & Expenses
   2. Reminders
   3. Capital fund
5. Updates Since Last Meeting
   1. Wednesday Weekly - Nikki
   2. Popcorn Machine - Sarah
   3. Square 1 Art - Shannon
6. Some Decisions to Make
7. What’s Coming Up
   1. Margarita’s Night – Michele
   2. Calendar Raffle – Shannon
   3. Movie Night (2/17) – Sarah
   4. Science Day (3/31) - Michele
   5. Harlem Wizards (4/2)- Shannon
8. Other ideas/comments
9. Next PTA meeting – February 9th at 6:30 pm (later rescheduled to February 16th due to weather)

**Discussion**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by PTA President, Shannon Harrison
2. Quorum obtained; five out of five members of the Executive Board were present.
3. Nov 2016 PTA Minutes were distributed for review. Melissa Vetter & Lindy Ward approved the minutes, all agreed, no one opposed.
4. **Principal Report:** We welcomed more families to Dondero for 2017 (+ 90 units going in behind McKinnons & unknown how many new students there will be as a result). It’s Kindness Month. Towards the end of the month into next, we’ll have a February food pantry collection. Mid-year assessments underway. It’s the 1st year we’re back to same math program. Renovation – hoping to break ground this summer. Change of school time- 1) put bid out for bus companies due to adjusted start times. Questions about early / late care. Trying to partner with local organizations for education & not just playing when extra care is required. Conversations about combining bus routes for all age groups and being met with resistance. Official start/end time of school day has not been determined. School day will be extended as a district, extend learning hours. There’s not enough hours in the day to teach everything & attempt to begin before Labor Day, dependent on renovations. STEAM Friday once per month & include photos & journal activities.
   * Kindergarten Request – K teachers (Cathy Dailey & Faith Masterson) joined by Alice Carey presented the idea of Forest Friday’s. Would rotate one Friday every month between the K classes. The barrier is clothing. Proposing a weather appropriate suit, about 20 per classroom. Kate is pitching a grant to Audubon Society. If not approved, committee will look to PTA to help with the cost of the weather suits. Also discussed 20 snowshoes for students + 4 for adults. Average cost for suit = 30. Estimate $600-$700 for all the suits. Grant is due on 1/30.
5. ***Treasurer’s Report***:

* **Deposits** – Pub 99 ($150 raffles & $180 proceeds), Popcorn ($170), Square One Art ($1363), BoxTops ($914) : **Expenses** – eSchool Deposit for 5th grade overnight camp for next Spring, Tax Return
* CD Options – Newburyport Bank – fund for new playground. Recommended a 6 month companion CD. Withdrawal fee if small is needed prior to 6 months (only if we needed to do it). Melissa proposed moving $ out of checking & into the CD. We have about $38K in the account today. Once $ set aside, can begin a capital campaign. Voted & Approved by Nikki & Michele Aronne to open the account and deposit $20K in it. We WILL need a playground committee with representation from teachers & families. Target younger families as their kids will be the ones who benefit most.

1. ***Update on Activities***
   * ***Wednesday Weekly –*** Big Kudos to Nikki for re-doing the format. It looks great!
   * ***Popcorn Machine –*** popping is reduced by 2 hours on Friday’s!! Popcorn popping is fun, please help! Sarah had a great idea to use healthier oil options, but due to nut allergies, decision was made to continue using the current oil options.
   * ***Square 1 Art*** – it’s complete, thank you everyone!
2. ***Some Decisions to Make***
   * ***Red Sox – Group Sales.*** All games are weeknights @ 7:10 pm, need to commit to a small amount to secure spot. Been focused on before June. Alternative is Portland Sea Dogs or Fischer Cats. Anne has a connection. We agreed we liked the idea of a baseball game, but will research Sea Dogs or Fischer Cats & pass on Red Sox at this time.
3. ***Upcoming & Ongoing Activities:***
   * **Margarita’s Night** – planned for next Wednesday. The class with the most kids who attend will win an ice cream party. There will be a sign-in sheet at the door, dine-in our take-out applies. Kate will announce the winner. Leverage PTA classroom liaison to help get the word out + with a final email blast reminder.
   * **Calendar Raffle** – 2 week raffle beginning 2/13. A packet of 4 tickets per child will be sent home to sell = $20 per kid. Brainstormed options for the classroom who sells the most tickets.
   * **Movie Night** – looking for ideas on food options for more variety. Tell Sarah Honeyman your ideas.
   * **Science Day** –Friday, March 31st. All day activity. Students will have 2 choices for AM sessions and will attend a large assembly session in PM (K-2 and 3-5). Need lots of volunteers for prep & day of event. We’ll also be sending out a request for presenters. We have already contacted groups such as NHSPCA, New Heights, Gardner Kate, Meteorologist. Other options we’ll pursue – Hampton Fire Dept., Rye Airfield, Science Center, Great Bay Discovery, White Plains and connections with local colleges.
   * **Harlem Wizards** – It will be a Sunday afternoon April 2nd.
4. **Other Ideas:** 
   * **Yearbook** – need classroom candid shots. Remind teachers to share their photos. Kate is thinking of giving them a flash drive & they can just plug it in. Carina has lots of photos and will get them to Nikki.
   * **Outdoor classroom** – Alice is interested in doing a spring outdoor classroom clean-up
   * **Drums Alive** – Michele & Melissa will assist Abby our music teacher.
5. ***Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 PM.***

– Next PTA Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 9th @ 6:30 pm (later rescheduled to 2/16 due to weather)

Submitted by: Brooke Sokolnicki, Dondero PTA Secretary