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| **Date:** 9/08/2016 | **Time:** 6:30 pm | **Location**: Dondero Library |

**Purpose:** This is the 1st 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 | No | mvetter79@gmail.com | Treasurer |
| Brooke Sokolnicki | Yes | brookesokolnicki@gmail.com | Secretary |
| Kate Callahan | Yes | kcallahan@portsmouth.k12.nh.us | Principal |

**Agenda**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of June 2016 Meeting Minutes
3. Principal Report – Kate Callahan
4. Alice Carey – Outdoor Classroom Initiative
5. Review 2016-2017 Budget – Shannon (for Melissa)
6. What’s been done already
   1. Teacher Appreciation ($50 Amazon gift cards to each teacher) & lunch for all 69 staff members
   2. Purchased new playground balls & benches
   3. Popcorn – first day tomorrow (9/10)
7. Upcoming Activities
   1. Bake Sale Tuesday (we decided to defer until November)
   2. Fairy House Tour (9/24 – 9/25)
   3. Square 1 Art
   4. Yearbook
   5. Spiritwear
   6. Movie Night (9/30)
   7. Teacher Luncheon (10/7)
   8. Bonfire/Chili Cook-Off (10/21)
8. Next PTA meeting – October 13th

**Discussion**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by PTA President, Shannon Harrison
2. Quorum obtained; four out of five members of the Executive Board were present.
3. June 2016 PTA Minutes were distributed for review. We were so excited about the 1st meeting and PTA trail mix that we forgot to vote. We’ll make sure to approve September minutes.
4. ***Principal’s Report:*** Kate welcomed the group to the 1st meeting and shared her appreciation for the large attendance. Kate highlighted the importance of speaking with your child’s teacher first for any concerns throughout the school year. All the staff were happy to not have any tears from the kiddos today as they transition back to school. Yeah!
5. **Alice Carey** shared a slide show and spoke about “Taking the Classroom Outdoors – A forest classroom at Dondero”. She shared the benefits of immersing yourself in nature. There are lots of opportunities for learning space in the woods. Hoping to be able to accommodate 2-3 classes at a time, perhaps the whole grade level. Alice would like to hold an adult only outdoor classroom kick-off on Saturday, 9/17 followed by a 2nd family friendly clean-up and then hopes to unveil at the bonfire event on Friday, 10/21.
6. ***Treasurer’s Report***: A brief update was shared on Melissa’s behalf. We currently have about $37K in the bank.

Big plans - We’re planning a new playground, it’s a long process estimated at $80-100K. We should consider a formal capital donation. Dondero is also planning major school renovations so it’s important to take everything into consideration.

Deposits: None discussed.

Expenses: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon ($50 Amazon gift cards), new playground balls & benches

1. ***Upcoming Activities:***

Shannon talked about our PTA goals, mission and events. Our main goal is community events.

* 1. **Bake Sale 11/8** – Seeking someone to chair the High School bake sale on Tuesday, Nov. 8th. We’ll need to have coverage all day. This will be a busy day and lots of opportunity to raise funds.
  2. **Fairy House Weekend (9/24-9/25)** – Shannon chairs this event. The week of 9/19, kids will be busy building fairy houses in their classroom using donated materials. Looking for help to assist in the classroom & helping transport the houses to/from Prescott Park. There will be an auction the week after the event for families to bid on a house to take home. Every Dondero child will receive one free ticket for participating in the classroom build.
  3. **Spirit Wear** – Nikki chairs this event & was excited to report we have a logo! The logo will be included on all sports teams gear. Car magnets will be included on the order forms along with some awesome new options for 2016-2017.
  4. **Movie Night 9/30** –Sarah Honeyman is the chair of DMNT (*Dondero Movie Night Team*). We hold about 4x per year. Always looking for volunteers to help with concessions, raffle, other. Students will vote & the winning movie will be played on 9/30. Decision between Angry Birds & Zootopia. Family friendly event, kids wear their PJ’s, bring sleeping bags and adults bring lawn chairs.
  5. **Teacher luncheon 10/7** – Shannon will send out more info to help plan soon. It’s a Teacher Workshop day, no school for kids.
  6. **Bonfire & Chili Cook-Off 10/21** – Wonderful fall event chaired by Michele Aronne. There will be a chili-contest, gourmet hot dog meals, shadow dancing & other fun activities. More info will be distributed in a few weeks & discussed at the next PTA meeting.

1. ***Ongoing Activities***
   1. **Yearbook** – Nikki will be sending info home soon. Looking for photos to be provided throughout the year.
   2. **Box Tops** – 11/1 is the deadline for the 1st submittal. Renee shared the box tops can be sent in on the sheet provided or baggies of 25 or 50. Kids receive a voucher for free popcorn for each 25 box tops submitted. If kids pre-pay, they will receive a $0.50 voucher for use at a school event (i.e. movie night, bonfire, etc).
   3. **Square One Art** – more info coming.
   4. **More Ways to Raise $$**
      1. **Amazon Smile** - Select “Mary C. Dondero” to sign up & % of purchase goes back to our school.
      2. **Schoola** – online thrift store accepting gently worn children’s, women’s & infant clothing. % of sales go back to Dondero. Check out their web site to request a bag or print a pre-paid shipping label.
   5. **New Dondero PTA Facebook page** – launched in August. Check it out.
2. ***Meeting Adjourned at 8:00PM.***

– Next PTA Meeting scheduled for October 13th

Submitted by: Brooke Sokolnicki, Dondero PTA Secretary