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| **Date:** September 12th, 2017 | **Time:** 6:30 pm | **Location**: Dondero Library |

**Purpose:** This is the 1st General PTA Meeting of the 2017-2018 school year.

**Executive Board Attendees/Invitees**

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| **Name** | **Present** | **Contact** | **Capacity** |
| Michele Aronne | Yes | micheleg229@comcast.net | President, Meeting Host |
| Melissa Vetter | Yes | mvetter79@gmail.com | Vice President |
| Jannice Hodges | Yes | jannicehodges@gmail.com | Treasurer |
| Brooke Sokolnicki | Yes | brookesokolnicki@gmail.com | Secretary |
| Kate Callahan | Yes | kcallahan@sau52.org | Principal |

**Agenda**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of June 2017 Meeting Minutes
3. Principal Report – Kate
4. Review 2017-2018 Budget – Jannice
5. What’s Been Done Already?
   1. Welcome Back Packets
   2. Teacher Appreciation (Gift Cards & Lunch) – Shannon
   3. Popcorn
6. What’s Coming Up?
   1. Outdoor Classroom – Alice
   2. 99 Grand Re-Opening (9/21) – Brooke
   3. Fairy House Tour (9/23-9/24) – Shannon
   4. Movie Night (9/29) - Sarah
   5. Fall Bonfire (10/13) - Michele
7. Next PTA Meeting – Tuesday, 10/10
8. Tour of our new school!

**Discussion**

* The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by PTA President, Michele Aronne
* Quorum obtained; five out of five members of the Executive Board were present.
* June 2017 PTA Minutes were distributed for review. Minutes were approved by Nikki Savramis & Jannice Hodges, all agreed, no one opposed.
* **Principal Report** – (Kate)
* Planning for next round of school renovations where there will be a true media center, special ed suite, music room, open concept art room. There are still questions on the placement of the café, but it will be renovated even if location remains the same.
* New parameters around security protocol. New 8:20 bell rings and the kids are in place to begin the day.
* Buses have been a challenge. It’s ok to call city hall / town to share any concerns you may have. Behavior on the buses has not been a concern, even despite combo of age range.
* ***2017-2018 Budget & Treasure’s Update*** (Jannice)
* Reviewed last year’s approved budget
* $26K balance. Last year we also approved moving $20K into a capital fund for a new playground. Fund now has $20,944 thanks to PureBarre fundraiser held in the Spring.
* We value making $ with a purpose and are more about the community than just fundraising events.
* ***What’s Been Done Already?***
  + **Welcome Back Packets (Michele)** – went home the 1st week of school in red folders. Included info about Box Tops, Popcorn Friday’s, student directory, PTA membership, Dondero calendar + PTA specific events.
  + **Teacher Appreciation (Shannon)** – held throughout the year, not just during the typical teacher appreciation week. Teachers enjoy the appreciation throughout the year too. Examples – early release luncheons (not all early releases…), teacher workshops, a candy bar, popcorn bar, fortune cookies, chili fixings bar, Amazon Gift Cards to get their classrooms started. 64 staff members are included.
  + **Popcorn Kernel (Nikki, Michele & Sarah)**– still looking for a Kernel. Lots of discussion about how fun it is to volunteer on a Popcorn Friday! We have a new popping machine now too so popping is even faster. Will plan to re-send the ‘classified ad’ seeking the Popcorn Kernel, Michele is the interim until the official one is named. Also, poppers now have a log where they can write down the amount of popcorn used for tracking purposes – this will help with supply & planning.
* ***What’s Coming Up?***
  + **Outdoor Classroom (Alice)** – it’s a clearing in the forest in the back of the school. “Forest Friday’s” are encouraged & supported by some of the teachers where the class is brought outside. Planning a clean-up day later in September (likely 9/30) and looking for anyone with landscaping type skills, can donate stumps, the more help the merrier. Will also hold a less formal clean-up day in October too. See Alice if interested or any questions. Alice also highlighted the White Pine Program – see your emails with the recent mailing about the after-school program.
  + **99 Grand Re-Opening (Brooke)** – doors open at 4pm, PTA will accept the $1K check in appreciation for our dining for a cause events at 5pm (the 99 gives back). Funds will be targeted to the new playground.
  + **Fairy House Weekend (Shannon)** – run by the Friends of the South End. Biggest fairy house tour in the world. Looking to do 3 open ended collaborative spaces that the kids can help build – 1 to be sponsored by Dondero, 11-3 both days. We’re also making 19 houses, one for each class. Houses will be available for auction after the event. We’ll get 50% of ticket sales sold thru Dondero and share in a check with the other local Portsmouth schools. You’ll get a free ticket when you volunteer and all Dondero students will get a free ticket for participating in classroom build.
  + **Movie Night (Sarah)** – Dondero Movie Night Team helps put on a fabulous evening, 4x per year on Friday nights. Kids wear their PJ’s and vote on the movie they want to see throughout the week. Volunteer spot will be sent for assistance the night of the movie and for concession donations.
  + **Bonfire (Michele)** - planned for Friday, 10/13. More to come.
  + **Playground Committee** – likely meetings will occur last Tuesday of every month. We need to raise lots of $$, goal is $100K. Think about grants, timeframe -> interested in starting next summer. Pennies for Playground is one revenue stream, but we needs lots more. Need to look into opportunities for it to be a community playground for Elwyn Park.
* ***Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 PM.***

Submitted by: Brooke Sokolnicki, Dondero PTA Secretary