



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY PTO
GENERAL MEETING
September 7, 2018
MINUTES

PTO Board Attendees: Melissa Madden, Rachel Callahan, Isabel Ribeiro, Caroline Heyer, Jenn Hicks, Erin Pesant, Janice Tierney

- **President's Welcome:** Melissa welcomed everyone and introduced herself
- **Mrs. Tierney's Welcome Remarks:** Melissa introduced Mrs. Tierney as the new principal. Mrs. Tierney welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for volunteering and supporting the school in many ways, financially, emotionally and physically. Melissa introduced the PTO board members
- **Cultural Arts Overview (Stacie Collins and Amanda Granger):**

Stacie Collins and Amanda Granger gave overview of assemblies for this school year.

 - 1-3rd Grade on October 26th, Secret World of Robotics, where students will meet a robot
 - 4-5th Grade on November 27th, Fall in the House, Accapella Group
 - Artist in Residence –Hip Hop Artsit, will last for two weeks for 4th and 5th grade and the students will perform at the end of the two weeks.
 - Mindfulness Assembly, Live in the Moment, takes place before PARCC, skills to detress on a daily basis

If there is for an additional assembly, maybe BMX one.
Assemblies usually take place on half days.
- **Budget (2018-2019) Review (Caroline Heyer):**

Caroline introduced the revised budget and summarized that dues listed at the top and the fundraisers are the two big sources of income. Franklin Fair the largest fundraiser along with Holiday Shop and Book Fair. Items listed at bottom of budget are expenses, such as assemblies. Melissa explained that we usually spend our allotted budget but we do keep some rollover and really the previous year funds the current year. The deficit is never in the red, we have a reserve. Caroline asked all committees to look at budgets allowed. If anything needs to be changed please let her know sooner rather than later.
- **Chess Program Overview (Melissa Madden and Grandmaster Mac):**

Melissa explained the new Chess Program options in Angie's absence, mentioned that Angie Farid has volunteered to help coordinate Chess Team. Explained that the reason for the revamped program this year was because numbers were too high last year and had kids very good at chess and those not that interested all at Chess Club so needed a way to incorporate multiple levels of talent and interest.

The new program includes a beginner Chess Club in September that has 20 students max and is run by Grandmaster Mac, who has worked with other schools in the district. Any student can sign

up for the Chess Club until it is full. The new Chess Team, also run Granmaster Mac, will be for advanced competitive players. The Chess Team would start in the winter and there will be tryouts for the team. These students would not sign up for the fall Chess Club program. The Chess Team will play competitive tournaments. The tryout process is not meant to be stressful it's just to make sure the students play level is appropriate for the team. 15-20 students will be on the team. In addition there will be a Spring Enrichment chess option for beginner chess players. Chess Team students should not sign up for the Spring Enrichment chess program. Every student who is interested should now have the opportunity to play chess at some level. Parent volunteers are needed to help for all Chess Program options.

- **Volunteer Opportunities (Isabel Ribeiro):**

Isabel introduced herself, mentioned that we are always looking for parents to help out during the year. Gave examples of the many options of volunteering. Listed some committees that still need volunteers to run; musical, chess club, holiday shop etc. Passed out flyer that listed all the committees the school has and listed the ones that still need volunteers. She mentioned that After School Enrichment still needs someone to chair, the school hires a company to run the program but the chair would help pick which classes to offer and organize signups. Chess Club and Chess Team still need volunteers and a Co-Chair for 5th Grade Activities (Sara Walker is other co-chair) is needed. Also the big ones needed are help for the Franklin Fair.

This Sunday's blast will include the signup genius links to volunteer. For example Holiday Shop volunteer link will go out so parents can sign up for a time slot. Isabel stressed that even if you are not a chair of a committee there are ways to volunteer.

Franklin Fair (Melissa Madden)

Needs two co-chairs to run, but also need many volunteers. There is a binder detailing all that needs to be done and ideas are included. It is very organized. Melissa and Maggie Green will run Silent Auction. Still need Head of Decorations (3 parents), Head of Redemption Committee, Volunteer Committee chair needed (one parent interested still need co-chair), Games Committee co-chair needed,

Art in the Classroom Overview (Erin Pesant)

Gave brief overview of Art in Classroom program. Signup genius links to go out in following Sunday's blast (after Back To School Night) and also class parents emails.

- **Communications:**

Rachel Callahan (in Renata's absence) requested all information to be included in Sunday blast to be emailed by Thursday to Renata (Renata's email is on the Franklin Parents website). Asked to please read the blast as we move away from paper. Melissa emphasized using the calendar output from the website so all important dates go directly into your calendar. Melissa stressed the importance of fingerprinting for field trips. A mobile unit has not been scheduled by BOE yet, the PTO cannot arrange it. The PTO will bring it up at next board meeting. Instructions on how to start fingerprinting process can be found on the Franklin Parents website.

- **President's Closing Items: (Melissa Madden)**

Spiritwear

Thompson's is doing it, look for link to order, samples will be at Back To School Night.

PTO Facebook Page

Currently we do not have one. We are trying to put one together, it would not be the primary source of info just another great way to reach people,

How to Help the PTO

PTO Dues – please pay

Schoola – program to donate clothing where Franklin gets a percent of any money earned through re-selling. Very easy to do, print a label at home and either they pick up or you drop in mail. Melissa mentioned that we have been making about \$25 a month through this program but could increase this amount if more people do it.

Amazon Smile – sign up on amazon and designate Franklin PTO as your “charity”, all purchases earn a small percentage back to Franklin.

- **Important Upcoming Dates:**

- Back to School Pops: TODAY! 3pm in front of Franklin
- Back to School Night: Wednesday, September 12th, 7:00pm
reminder Summit House to donate 10% of sales after 8pm on 9/12 to PTO
- Back to School BBQ & Ribbon Cutting: Friday, September 14th 5:00-700pm, Franklin Field
- BBQ is rain or shine , moved into gym. Kick off on new playground with ribbon cutting
- School Picture Day: Thursday, September 27th