

Fairfield Ludlow High School

PTA Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Attendance: Steve Baker, Dorene Herron, Amy Cooke, Stephanie Mastino, Chris Blanc, Carrie Rullo, Jessica Gerber, Alison Jones Allen, Jen Jacobsen-Tapsall, Nancy Billington, Sue Voltz, Gina Luczaj, Kathy Russell, Jim Accomando, Kara Wolewski, Chrystal Moynahan

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Steve Baker at 6:05pm
2. **Headmaster's Report:** Greg Hatzis was unable to attend the meeting, no report given
3. **Guest Speaker:** Nancy Billington, founder and executive director of INSPIRE, a non-profit community-based organization offering programs to reduce stress
 - Presented video regarding stress in the Fairfield community
 - Presented information on a 5-week parenting workshop called Creating Lasting Family Connections (CLFC); free to parents in the Fairfield high school community
 - Discussion about Nancy's interest to hand out information on INSPIRE and the parenting workshops at the Freshman Forum
4. **President's Report: Steve Baker**
 - Offered congratulations to FLHS PTA members recently elected to positions in the Town of Fairfield government; Dorene Herron to the RTM, Jennifer Jacobsen-Tapsall and Christine Vitale to the Board of Education
5. **Treasurer's Report: Kathy Russell**
 - Nothing unusual dispersed in October
 - \$806 in teacher grants carried over from 2016/17 school year with \$7,194 left to award in the 2017/18 school year
6. **VP Volunteers Report: Sue Voltz**
 - Enough volunteers in place for the Freshman Forum
 - Katie Holmberg is in okay shape with volunteers for the upcoming alumni breakfast
 - Sue will follow up with Marcia Tenreiro regarding the staff holiday luncheon
 - All set to reach out through MySchoolAnywhere (MSA) for volunteers
 - Will continue going to the Headmaster Coffees to recruit
 - Only 50 volunteers signed up through MSA this year compared to 90 last year
7. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - Steve Baker asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the 10/12/17 meeting. Jim Accomando asked to amend the minutes to reflect a breakdown of dues owed the National and State PTAs. The drafted minutes reflect \$5.50 owed to National PTA per member. The minutes will be amended to read:

Member dues owed to State/National PTAs = \$7,128 (\$3.25 per member to CT PTA and \$2.25 per member to National PTA)

8. **BOE Committee Report: Jennifer Jacobsen-Tapsall**
 - New members of the BOE will be sworn in on November 20, 2017
 - First meeting including the new BOE members will be November 28, 2017
 - AD Hoc meeting schedule for November 16, 2017 is canceled
9. **Reflections Committee Report: Missy Savard**
 - Submissions for the Reflections "Theme Search Contest" are due on November 14, 2017
 - Reflections theme this year is "Within Reach"; official rules are going out to all staff this week
 - All submissions are due by Friday, January 12, 2018; entry forms are in the office
10. **PTAC Report: Dorene Herron**
 - PTAC held a BOE Forum at the Fairfield Museum; 1 question at each table while the candidates rotated
11. **Freshman Forum Report: Stephanie Mastino**
 - Forum to be held Thursday, November 16, 2017 in the FLHS auditorium; all freshman parents and students are invited
 - Speakers include: an ER physician, police officer, a recovering adult, the parent of a recovering child, and a speaker on vaping
 - Parent survey from last year helped tweak this year's forum
 - Teachers are encouraged not to give homework; there will be a check in system and an exit survey
12. **Membership Report: Alison Jones Allen**
 - Membership has ground to a halt. One last sweep of parents and teachers added 15 more members, with a little over 1,300.
 - The check for membership dues (to National/State PTAs) has not been sent yet
13. **Teacher Grant Committee: Carrie Rullo**
 - Carrie received a grant request from the Broadcast Department. She asked for clarification on why the cameras purchased (for livestreaming purposes) in the 2016/17 school year are not working and why the department needs more money. Discussion as to the purchase history of the cameras ensued. End result is that more detailed discussion is needed with Greg Hatzis and Todd Parness. Steve Baker asked to be included in future emails regarding the cameras.
14. **Announcements:** Review of upcoming "Save the Dates" as outlined on the Agenda.
15. **Adjournment:** Steve Baker motioned to adjourn at 7:12pm. Alison Jones Allen seconded the motion.

Report respectfully submitted by Amy Cooke