



***Mission Statement: Sandwich Elementary PTA strives to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities for all children.***

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024

### **Welcome | Introductions**

Board Members in attendance: Mary Beth Burwood, Lizz Bonino, Antonia Solitro, Cara Foley, Jackie O'Connor, Shana Tyner, Val Caporusso, Meaghan Mallon, Michelle Ducie (zoom), Melody Way (zoom), Kate Bizerik (zoom)

### **Approve October Meeting Minutes**

Antonia motions to approve, Val seconded, all in favor

### **Principal/Vice Principal Report**

#### **- Chris Dintino, Forestdale**

- Thank families for coming out for the Turkey Trot
- Report cards emailed home 12/9
- Polar express day last friday - kickoff to holiday season
  - Took 20 students to Polar Express (TY to PTA for funding the bus)
- Gr 1-2 doing mid-year assessments for early bird dyslexia screening (state mandated)
- Wed, Dec 18 6:30 Forestdale Nutcracker (Eileen Novero) - 20 min performance
- Friday, Dec 20 (full day) Jingle Jog 10:00 + Wellness Day for students
  - Encourage families to attend the Jingle Jog
- Return back Jan 2nd, 2025

#### **- Oak Ridge**

- TY to PTA for helping to support
  - 6th grade trip to Planetarium
  - Trip to play downcave
  - Trip to Plimoth/Patuxet Museums
- Specials Night ,ast week
- Book Launch this past weekend "Where's Sandwich" (Sandwich Arts Alliance) - author, Dean Koh (sp?)
  - Kids were able to publish some of their works
  - On sale at Sandwich Arts Alliance
- Report cards went out today
- Guitar and strings ensemble heading to Center for Active Living Friday to perform
- Music performance to 3rd graders on Thursday
- SMHS band and musicians will come perform next week
- Focus on attendance and chronic absenteeism
  - Last year 14% rate chronic (over 18 school days missed)
  - Ultimate Ultimate Ultimate Competition on last day before winter break

## Questions:

Regarding attendance - post covid % is lower than before (not just in Sandwich)

- At FD from 98% to 92%
- Ways to promote perfect attendance
- Markers throughout school career → precursors for future academic/ social-emotional/ career success

## Grant Requests - Kendall O'Brien

- Sarah Greer, 5th grade is requesting \$2000 for field trips to the New Bedford Whaling Museum which aligns with our social studies and science standards and a field trip to the Natural History museum in Brewster. These field trips will give hands-on learning and will deepen their learning of key concepts.
  - Trying to keep price to no more than \$12/kid
    - \$
  - Science and social studies standards hit
  - 4 days in March
  - What's leftover from Whaling Museum will go to transport for Natural History Museum
  - Vote to hold 5th Grade Grant Funding until January
    - Jackie motioned, Cara seconded, all approved
- Cheryl Eastman, 1st grade is requesting \$3558 to take the students to Coonamessett Farms in the spring. The Coonamessett farm Educational tour consists of: Farm tour(fields and greenhouses), farm animals, and feeding the chickens. We are also able to do a planting project. This field trip directly connects with curriculum (animals, life-cycles and plants), it also connects with the school/DEIB/PTA initiatives and garden project.
  - Tour lasts about an hour
  - Planting project - ties into all curriculum of plants, animals, life cycles + DEIB and sustainable farming project
  - \$3,558 total cost of trip
    - 4 vs. 3 school busses (9 classes total)
  - Plan to go in the spring
  - Potential funding available for Cultural Events bc of tie in to indigenous
    - Follow up with Cyndi (not in attendance)
  - Vote to approve \$3,000 toward 1st grade trip
    - Jackie motioned, Mary Beth seconded, all approved
- Lisa Kent, Kindergarten is requesting \$3000 for transportation + chaperone costs to the Buttonwood Zoo.
  - Not been on an "actual field trip" since 19-20 school year (have had visitors come to FD)
  - May, 2025
  - Touring zoo - ties into ARC curriculum (reading, writing, ELA), zoo has an exhibit for each unit
  - Interactive treasure hunt/nature walk (to be created by the K team)
  - 3 busses (3 kids per seat)
  - Additional \$230 for chaperones (2 per class)
  - Buttonwood is covering all admission for students and 20
  - Val motions to approve up to \$3,000, Antonia seconded, all in favor
- Marilyn Dunlavey, 4th grade is requesting \$2000 for field trips to Blake planetarium and Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Reserve.
  - Repeat last year's field trips - students loved it, memorable
    - Waquoit Bay - really hands on - goes with ELA ARC + Life Sciences unit on animal adaptations
    - Blake Planetarium - aligns with science curriculum
    - Kids paid \$5 total for both trips
  - Bussing is the majority of the cost

- Don't have exact numbers
- Make a motion to approve \$2,000 and hold \$1,000 for transport (Antonia), Cara seconded, all approved

**Communications** - Shana Tyner | Michelle Ducie

- Can each grade send a few photos of something the PTA has helped fund (field trips, etc.)
  - Sentence starters "The \_\_\_\_\_ graders recently \_\_\_\_\_. Some of their key takeaways were \_\_\_\_\_."
- In real time - as you go on the trips/ use the PTA funds

**Fundraising** - Antonia Solitro | Jackie O'Connor

Basket raffle - tentative Friday, April 4th  
Approved up to \$500 for event - approved

**Events** - Valerie McIntyre | Meaghan Mallon | Angela Klida

- Fund request for 10K for Sugar Plum 2025
  - Cara asking what our plan is to make back what we spend
  - Finding out what we have left in inventory before we enter into 2025 planning
  - Not as many \$6-8 items available to buy this year
  - Idea to have a "fire sale" to get rid of everything
  - Future conversations about renting a storage space
  - Cara makes a motion to approve, Shana seconded, all approved
- Request: Using scholastic dollars to provide the **Book Vending Machine** at Oak Ridge
  - Have been able to give teachers roughly \$75 in years past
    - Want to continue to be able to provide that
  - Can use a good chunk (\$12,000) of scholastic dollars for a book vending machine
  - Holds around 210 books - restock for \$1,200 OR you can restock your own
  - Jackie makes a motion to approve, Antonia seconded, all approved
- Events team follow up:

We need to address how events are organized moving forward, as our current structure isn't very sustainable. I propose breaking events into individual loop committees, with smaller teams working together instead of relying on one group. We attempted this approach with Sugar Plum, but likely started too late for it to be fully effective. Now is a great opportunity to develop and refine this model for next year, especially since it's a year-long planning process for sugar plum specifically.

- *Events list:*
  - Start of year kick off events & Open Houses
  - Harvest festival - Mel offered to be owner in conjunction with Sandwich Rec
  - Fall Book Fair - Feedback was to keep them closer together
  - Sugar Plum Fairy Shopping event
  - Spring Book Fair
  - End of school bash
- Going into spring our events are light - see opportunity for movie nights, parents outing. More for the kids but need volunteers and support.
- Will bring up the "events team follow up" at the next E-board meeting

### **Cultural Events** - Cyndi Rotondi

- 2000 requested from Cultural Funds to welcome Acapella Group performance and workshop at Oak Ridge on May 9th. The group would perform for grades 5,6.
- **Antonia motion to approve, Shana seconded, all approved**
- 4,500 Cultural Funds requested by Forestdale to establish collaboration with Wampanoag tribe regarding tribal methods and practices for gardening. This project would bring CheeNulka (cha-noh-kay) and others from the tribe into the FD community in a pragmatic and meaningful way that can teach future generations of Forestdale students the benefits of growing and eating healthy food. The partnership should create and develop connections for a more sustainable and informed community of students.
- **Joanne Saunders came to speak on behalf of the event**
  - Were denied funds from Mass Cultural Council
  - Jackie suggested DESE farm to school grant for next year (up to \$30,000)
- **Mr. D. talked about his long term goals for the school garden at Forestdale**
  - Reference to school in Vermont doing similar farm to table initiatives
- **Jackie made a motion to approve, Cara seconded, all approved**

### **Membership** - Mary Beth Burwood

- **Close to goal**
- **WHOIE Sea Grant - potential curriculum connections, funds, classes, etc.**
  - [Large Grants](#)
  - [Small Grants](#)

### **Treasurer's Report** - Cara Foley

- **Lots of \$ to spend still**
- **Only off by \$38 total for all book fairs**

### **Questions | Comments**

**Adjourned: 7:14**

### ***Your 2024/2025 Sandwich Elementary PTA Board***

**Co-Presidents:** Lizz Bonino | Melody Way

**Treasurer:** Cara Foley

**Fundraising:** Antonia Solitro | Jackie O'Connor

**Events:** Valerie McIntyre | Meaghan Mallon | Angela Kilda

**Secretary:** Lauren Comley

**Grants:** Kendall O'Brien

**Communications:** Shana Tyner | Michelle Ducie

**Accounts Payable:** Kate Bizorik

**Cultural Events:** Cyndi Rotondi

**Membership:** Mary Beth Burwood