

FC PTA General Meeting
September 19, 2016 6-7:30pm
Cafeteria, Fall Creek Elementary, 202 King St, Ithaca, NY
Minutes – Margaret Royall
Approved October 17, 2016

Teachers/staff in attendance: Ms Spencer, Ms. Hart, Mr. Bell, Abigail Bokaer, Ms. Szymcek, Mr. Coulomb, Ms. Phillips, Beth (K aide), Mihal Rohnen, Rosemary McGrath, Allison Anderson, Melissa Kitchen, Mr. Simons (13 total – a record!)

1. Welcome & Introductions – Elaan

- Introduce yourself, children, what are you excited about
- NEW mission statement: The Fall Creek PTA's mission is to advocate for the entire school community, by providing inclusive programming, communication, opportunities, and involvement for all families.
- Working on better communication through email – whole school email list
- Spreading information on how many events and programs are through the PTA (see attached list)
- Southside Community Center meeting to reach out to families outside of Fall Creek proper
- FC PTA is providing scholarships for PTA membership to those who qualify for free or reduced lunch

2. Speaker: IPEI Grant Opportunities – Mary Grainger, IPEI Liason

- Work hard to enhance education for every student in the district, connect school and community through funding, ideas, programs
- Grants are available to teachers, community, and
- 4 dates to remember – 3 grant deadlines: Nov 2, Jan 18, Mar 29th
 - March 5th, 19th annual spelling bee
- Grant Types
 - Teacher Grants – parents can be ghostwriters
 - Connecting Classrooms Grants – need teacher team, within a building or across buildings
 - Red and Gold Grants – staff, parents, community members
 - March 5th, 19th annual spelling bee
- Check out updates to application process on new website
- Fall Creek
 - 10 of 84 Teacher grants from Fall Creek
 - 1 of 2 Connecting Classroom Grants

3. Membership – Kate

- Providing scholarship for free and reduced lunch families
- Rewards
 - for 30% male members
 - 75% teacher membership allows for special grants
 - Growing the membership gets us benefits

- Great place for advocacy, families and teachers can get support from the PTA
- Membership: \$7; we keep \$3, NYSPTA gets \$4
- You can participate without attending meetings if you are interested
- Register everyone at the meeting who wants to vote on the budget

4. Budget – Christina

- See attached pie charts and table
- Vote to approve budget (see attached budget)
 - We have a quorum

5. Fall FUNdraiser – Tamara and Paul Acosta

- Biggest fundraiser for the PTA every year
- The Kulp theater isn't available on November 6th
- Looking for new venue or date
 - Boynton Gym?
- Hilby is on board this year, but possible change up for next year
- Looking for Co-Chairs and young blood to help this year and take over next year
- Going paperless? Other options to help with the Net amount raised
- Scholarship tickets for those who need them
- Giving other schools more of a cut to help them be more independent
- Bake sale is a large part of the fundraiser

6. Play Committee Partnership with FCE Admin – Kate and Mike Simons

- Continuing conversation from last year around trouble on playground and strictness of rules (see meeting minutes from 6/6/2016; Alex Cote came to talk from Ithaca Children's Garden (ICG))
- Two step process
 - ICG Play Symposium – 5 teachers and Mike Simons going; open to community as well; Theme “Inside the Classroom”
 - ICG created curriculum for our school with a focus on playwork
- Melissa Kitchen is a new playground aide and also a
- Idea of rewrite of playground rules being considered by 4th and 5th grade
- Films the Friday of the Play Symposium – Friday, September 30th, 7pm LACS
 - “The Land” - Nature of Play
 - “Childhood Education and Play
 - Q&A afterward
- PTA is partially funding this effort to change the culture of play at FCE; any contributions from families as volunteers or through donations
- Question: Are we going to make real shifts at our school?
 - Kate: opportunities for a culture shift in play in our school from teachers and aides, inside and outside; ICG says in place like the school, the most important thing is teacher and staff buy-in and we have that from our teachers, Mike, and Staff; FCASP staff have also gone
 - Mike: We won't have an “Anarchy Zone”; the spirit of play is what it's about; wants kids to come home happy; we have a new district shift to

“case study work” also called “project based learning”; not about the playground rules necessarily, it’s about play and helping kids learn to problem solve; parents can learn to help the kids too

- Chris Bell: How can we help kids through problem solving is the main

7. Room Parents – Susie Gutenberger-Fitzpatrick

- Needed! For almost all grades
- Great opportunity to help in the classroom and to help the PTA get information out
- Look for information in Thursday folder

8. Review of potential speakers from PTA meeting 05-04-2016 – not discussed

- Farm to Table
- School Food
- Expert parents in the school (lead and neurodevelopment, nutrition)
- Staff coming to tell about why they do what they do
- Technology – chromebooks and ipads – lifespan, ewaste, safety
- Peer Mediation Counselor Program – training kids to mediate and help with situations in school, giving kids ownership and responsibility

9. Upcoming events

- Curriculum night – October 4
- Next PTA Meeting – October 17

10. Ideas for other PTA projects

- New Mural – Mihal
- Healthy Snacks –
- CSA partnership

Roles that need filling:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| PTA Council Rep | PTA Meeting Dinner Server | Box Top Coord. |
| Chocolate Sale Coord. | Math Night Coord. | Staff Luncheon Coord. |
| Teacher Appreciation Week Coord. | | Credit Union Volunteers |

Room Parents:

Kindergarten (3)

1st (2)

2nd (2)

3rd (2)

4th (2)

EVENT CALENDAR – 2016-2017

September 7-8 Welcome back coffee in school lobby - hosted by board

September 17 Back to school playground party

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|----------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| September 18 | Porchfest Bakesale | | |
| October 5 | Credit Union | | |
| October 7 | School Photo Day | | |
| October 29? | Halloween Party | | |
| November 5/6? | Fall FUNdraiser | | |
| November 8 | Election Day Bake Sale | | |
| November/December | Talent Show | Craft Night | Gimmie Fundraiser |
| January-March? | Basketball | | |
| February-March | Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Sale | | |
| April | Family Math night | | |
| May | Reading Celebration | Teacher Appreciation Week | Talent Show |
| June | Bike Rodeo | June Playground Party | Staff Luncheon |
| PTA MEETINGS: | September 19 | Overview of year, IPEI Speaker, committee sign-ups, FUNdriaser | |
| | October 17 | Fall FUNdraiser Planning, Committee sign-ups | |
| | November 14 | Speaker, Form Nominating Committee | |
| | March 6 | May and June event committees | |
| | April 3 | Nominate new board | |
| | May 8 | Vote on new board | |