**November 12, 2018 PTA Meeting**

**Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm**

**Attendance**: John Wolpert, Alicia Assetto, Vanessa Marasco, Jennifer Doe, Kristy Lewis, Jennifer MacDonald, Carrie Trudden, Anna Tupin, Carla Lawson, Krista Schneider, Kristen Andrews, Sarah Parsons, Jen Knight, Heather Mattern, Jill Moy, Sarah Ochoa, Heidi Martin, Candice McCoy

**Announce Slate of Officers:**

President: Vanessa Marasco

Vice President of Administration: Amy Parker

Vice President of Fundraising: Jennifer Doe

Treasurer: John Wolpert

Secretary: Alicia Assetto

**New Business**

* **Treasurer’s Report – John Wolpert**
  + - Current Balance: $36,250.78
    - After checks outstanding will have ~$33,000
    - October: +$8,600 in cash and checks
      * $603 from restaurant fundraisers, $333 from Chipotle
    - $1,900 in expenses
      * magnets/directory/planners
  + Movie Night
    - $24 loss – included the outdoor rental
    - Was a great night for everyone!
  + Dance-A-Thon
    - Giving was down
      * 22% less on average per donation
    - $1,100 in expenses for costs/prizes
    - $9,600 was made
  + PTA Budget Report was available at the meeting
* **Principal’s Report – Cindy Bell**
  + Report Cards will go home on the 20th
  + 3rd/4th/5th grade parents are able to access grades electronically
  + Milk concerns
    - Please call school directly to address any issues
    - There are currently no problems with the milk in the cafeteria
    - There were previously spotty issues county-wide that were resolved at the beginning of the school year
    - Health Department monitors the temperatures of our food storage
    - Students can let cafeteria workers know if there are any issues with their food.
    - Students can buy water or get drinks from the fountain
* **Book Fair – Mrs. Parsons**
  + E-Wallet for Book fair
    - Students have a spending limit
    - Parents can log on to book fairs and find our EES site
  + Students are excited about the book fair
  + Parents and students can shop until noon Friday, Nov. 16th
* **Dance-A-Thon – Vanessa Marasco**
  + Prizes arriving this week
    - 155 students receiving prizes
    - hope to send home by thanksgiving
  + Want to try a different fundraiser next year
    - Fun Run?
      * The company Freedom ES uses doesn’t charge as much
      * Vanessa will ask Sykesville MS about their fun run
    - Parents are concerned because there is too much “dressing up” in the fall
  + Penny War? – Jennifer Doe
    - EES can sponsor a family or shelter
    - Spirit days to go with donations
    - All the grades compete against each other
    - EES can make a financial donation to food bank or organization
    - “extras” as prizes for students… kindergarten?
  + There will be no Food Drive RIGHT NOW per Ms. Bell
    - Mrs. Maher suggested a food drive after the holidays for Kindness Week
    - Our school sponsors several families in the county
* **Box Tops – Carrie Trudden**
  + 2017-2018 earned $1,048.50
  + 2018-2019 goal $1,000
  + Account Balance:
    - Remaining balance from last year $163.70
    - Bonus box top app offers $14.80
    - September/October collection $367.00
    - Current Total $545.50
  + Collection Details
    - Money earned through box tops is disbursed to schools two times per year
      * December (Nov. 1st submission deadline)
      * April (March 1st submission deadline)
    - Next collection deadline for EES is Friday, November 30th
    - Box Tops are collected from school approximately once per month
    - Box Tops can be turned in using collection sheets, in a baggie, or in an envelope
    - Box Tops Bonus App provides additional opportunities to earn Bonus Box Tops for shopping and scanning your receipts
    - Collection bins are located in the front office and in each team
    - Box Tops information will be added to the PTA website. Each month, there will be an email with Box Tops details and reminders. Look for it on or around the 15th of the month.
* **Restaurant Nights – Vanessa Marasco**
  + Chick Fil A was tonight!
  + Chili’s on 11/20
    - Report Card nights
  + Suggestion about not having restaurant nights on half day from Kristen Andrews
    - Merritt Daycare serves pizza to students in the afternoon
  + Krista Schneider will take over for Lauren Rinker
  + Carrolltowne ES had a Sykesville fundraiser day on Election day that allowed families to shop and eat downtown at some of the local businesses
    - Might be an option for the Spring
* **Coupon Books – Candice McCoy**
  + Books are here and going home Monday
  + There is a new app you can purchase
  + New t-shirt incentives for sales
  + Return the books if you don’t want to purchase
  + Only going home with youngest/only students
  + Dec. 3rd will be the deadline to return books
  + Candice will post information to Facebook
* **Family Dance – Kristen Andrews**
  + Great Success!
  + 238 Attendees
    - 10-15 volunteers
  + 16 Survey Responses
    - limit time to 2 hours
    - serve fruit/veggies
    - photographer?
    - Time of year change – there’s too much “dressing up” in the fall
    - Less prizes?
    - DJ?
    - Dance Games
    - No sodas?
    - Increase interest for boys?
* **Student Directory – Sarah Parsons**
  + Directory is back up and running
  + Mrs. Parsons will send out a memo soon
* **Cultural Arts Committee – Amy Parker**
  + Rhythms of India Dance group
  + Possibly presenting at school soon – 11/30th?
* **School Store – Sarah Parsons & Jill Moy**
  + Will be open every other Wednesday in the morning
  + Items will be $3 or less
  + Lots of fun items are available for students to buy that Mrs. Parsons and Mrs. Moy have picked out
* **Family Reading Night – Sarah Parsons**
  + December 12th Wednesday at 6:30pm
  + Celebrating the Icelandic tradition of reading together on Christmas Eve
  + Families can bring blankets and cozy clothes
  + Spend an hour together
  + Take a hot chocolate break
  + Read some more, then go home
* **Holiday Gift Shop – Vanessa Marasco & Jennifer Doe**
  + Friday 12/7 at 5pm-8pm
  + Kids can buy gifts for family, friends, neighbors, etc…
  + Budget envelopes/flyers will be sent home
  + Will need student volunteers and lots of parents to help wrap and help with shopping
* **Volunteer Hours – Vanessa Marasco**
  + Some larger corporations will pay $ for employees’ volunteer hours to organizations like schools
    - Community giving programs
  + Check with your employer to see if you can earn for EES!
* **Dates of Activities – Carrie Trudden**
  + Spread out dates of activities across the school year because of costs to parents coming all at once?
  + Vanessa, Amy & Ms. Bell met over Summer to set the dates for larger activities
    - Some events added in as needed
* **American Education Week – Carrie Trudden**
  + Direction from School’s email was confusing, only one teacher responded to email requesting visiting information
  + Per Ms. Bell – the spirit of American Education Week is to invite parents in to the school to see what the school day is like
    - Notify teachers if you intend to visit
    - Teacher might be out
    - Testing schedules
    - Accommodations for visitors
* **School Supplies – Krista Schneider**
  + PTA did not offer service last summer
    - Not a lot of orders the last year
  + Krista will help out and Ms. Bell will look into the company name so PTA can possibly offer for parents next year
* **Next PTA Meeting will be January 8th 7pm**
* **Drawing for $10 Gift Certificate to Oscars – Jennifer MacDonald**
* **Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm**