

Cobbles Elementary PTA Minutes  
November 16, 2023

Present: Cara Acker, Ashley Lieber, SaraJane Deisinger, Amanda Freeland, Mindy Staba, Molly Maguire, Cynthia Ueland, Allison Trawinski, Joslin Buhrman, Amy Kauffman, Anna Bell, Lisa Tripodi, Gina Geraci, Reed Sanchez, Nicole Doyley, Nicole Whitehead

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Approval of October minutes: Ashley Lieber, Mindy Staba

**BOE Report: Nicole Doyley**

- Unveiling of district budget
- Update on building safety readiness
- Recognized NHS honorees, Indian Landing Golden Apple Award winner
- NYS School Board Association Conference topics discussed
  - Suicide prevention
  - Grading: more equitable based on grading knowledge only, different ways to grade (presentation vs. test)
    - Panel of black and brown teens discussed diversity on our classrooms
    - Our Stories program: learning about famous African people and history
- Voted on miscellaneous smaller concepts
- Emergency response is available on the district website. Updated annually but no major changes

**Principal Report: Nicole Whitehead**

- Safety Committee: meets every summer and three additional times throughout the school year, Mr. Fox is the safety coordinator
- New: staff and teachers must be notified before a drill
- Thank you notes from students for providing the book fair
- Received good feedback from Veteran's Day events
- STEAM Day assembly: high school students presented robots
- Mrs. Whitehead is very thankful for her birthday parade!
- Kindergarten students will be participating in a Thanksgiving Day parade around the school.
- Harvest of the Month: so popular we are running out of food!
  - Suggestion: pass out recipe or include it in Principal Newsletter?
  - Question from attendee: Are the vegetables locally grown? Nicole will follow up.

**Teacher Report: Reed Sanchez**

Book Fair Follow Up

- How do teachers redeem gift certificates?
- Can teachers have a copy of student's eWallets in advance?

-Staggering class times so the library isn't so crowded? Three days with parent night in between may be better.

-ICOT/12:1:1 classes having their own time to browse

-Line at parent's night was blocking book shelves

-Designate free book area

-Greeter volunteer to guide kids in right direction

-Timer for checkout

-Teachers preferred receiving books over the gift cards

-Mindy Staba suggested to provide teacher wish lists to room parents to distribute.

-No final totals yet: brought in around \$11,000, still have to pay for free books (around \$2,000)

### **PAB Report: Gina Geraci**

-RFP: Request for proposal bids for the Atlantic Avenue land discussed at previous meetings

-Square One tiles are paid for by the district, not PTAs

-Refugees in the district have doubled from 55-110, mostly Ukrainian students

-A Thanksgiving event was held at PHS for families who are learning English.

-Bus Driver Appreciation: Harris Hill PTA coordinating

-Constant Contact: Cobbles' account is now deactivated but we are chipping in for the district bill (\$93.14). We will not have to pay going forward.

-Cobbles PTA information will be relayed through Mrs. Whitehead's newsletter. Bay Trail is doing a similar system.

### **President's Notes: Gina Geraci**

-Taking a break from events for the holidays

-Still need a coordinator for the World Language Program

-Holiday Teacher Appreciation: coffee gift cards?

-Caring Council is collecting gift cards, flyer from Mr. Kazel will be sent next week

-Yearbook: Lisa Tripodi and Joslin Buhrman will receive training from Patience Prinzi. First responsibilities include voting on a theme and cover contest

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2024