

## Chilmark School PTO Meeting

December 18, 2023

Time: 8:15 a.m.

1. **Attendance:** Lisa Brown, Corey Lazar, Jess Seeman, Cana Courtney, Jackie Freidman, Stephanie DaRosa, Indaia Whitcomb, Katharine Barnes, Cat Rykowski, Skye Kerns
2. **Approve minutes:** Jess Seeman approves minutes from November's meeting. Stephanie DaRosa seconds. All approved
3. **Teacher Update:**
  - a. **Skating Aids**
    - Cana: Susan is asking for approval reimbursing her for \$300 for her purchase of Skate Helper skating aids for the Learn to Skate program in January. Luke asked her to buy them due to the increase of students at the school. They will be used in addition to the ones at the rink. The school will keep the ones purchased for future use. She bought 10 at \$30 a piece.
    - Cat: We could use buckets instead. They're a lot cheaper and we can use them for other things.
    - Stephaine: The ice rink may not approve buckets.
    - Cana: They have already been purchased. Can we approve?
    - Jess: Let's wait and get Brent's confirmation on funds in the account.
  - b. **Land Acknowledgement**
    - Cana: We started reciting a land acknowledgment statement during morning circle. This is a statement that acknowledges that our school is built on Wampanoag land. We're trying to be more inclusive. This is the same statement that was said at the Turkey Trot.
    - Indaia: Will this be a regular thing?
    - Cana: Yes, everyday. It's going really well so far.
    - Jess: Let's include it in the weekly peek or send in an email with the statement included.
  - c. **Bowling**
    - Jess: We would like feedback from the teachers regarding the bowling tradition. Do they like it? Would they like to try something else? Is this a tradition they enjoy or should we start looking at alternatives? Should we discuss the purpose of the trip and its value? If so, PTO can help look at other options.
    - Lisa: The tradition was started before we had a bowling alley on the island. Maybe it's time to rethink this tradition.
    - Stephanie: In retrospect, this is a long time tradition where the students had a fun off island experience. We used to go to Ryan amusement park.
    - Cat: No one wants to nix going off island and having a fun experience but maybe it's not bowling? Is there something else we could do that they can't already do here?
    - Stephanie: We could go to the science museum?
    - Jess: Is this gym specific? Maybe go rock climbing?
    - Cana: We'll have a staff meeting after break get. I'll ask the teachers and get back to you.
4. **SAC Update**
  - a. **Principal Search**
    - Jess: We've started the principal search and posted the job in different places including the newspaper. a national search engine etc. There will be in person interviews beginning February for the select finalist. There will be a whole day spent at the school with the community to ask questions and hear from the candidates. It is a large committee, about 10-12 people, including someone from the tribe, teachers, parents, Richie Smith, Robert Lionette, staff, possibly Jackie and Robyn, town selectman too. It's a huge time commitment. We are still in the reach out process. Maybe someone from Community Services.
    - Lisa: Are you asking for parents?
    - Jess: We're choosing parents who were already voted into SAC, maybe Noli, myself, or Jessica.
    - Corey: What's the cutoff date to apply?
    - Jess: Good question. I don't know. I'm assuming Ritche put it in the description.
    - Stephane: Is there any feedback from the survey?

- Jess: Yes. We're working now to aggregate the data. There were about 50 responses. All the teachers got feedback from their classrooms. We will make a visual to represent the students vision as what a leader is and what they would like in a principal..

#### b. School Improvement Plan

- We're working on the school improvement plan and will present it to the committee this wednesday. This is a document written now but goes into effect next year.

#### c. Goals

- Define and codify the school educational framework. What are the most important variables in multiage classrooms? Researching other schools.
- Project based... is that what we want?
- Codify responsive classroom behavior and utilize it properly
  - Stephanie: Has the staff been trained recently?
  - Jess: Not that I know of. We're wanting to do that too.
- Language
- Tribe inclusion. Look at charter school DIJ
- Guidance counselor 3 days a week. It was recently cut to 2 days a week. It was cut recently by the school committee with Susan. It was cut across all of the schools.
- Sustainability goal
- Stephanie: How is the space going with the shared art, tech room? It's hard for me to see them do this.
- Cana: From what I've observed it's ongoing and shifting to find what's working and what's not. Tech is only 1 day a week. We're currently using cafeteria tables. Working a little better. It's been a learning curve. I can ask the staff directly and get their feedback.
- Jess: The preschool has made it clear they are only using one more year trajectory. They are having a meeting with the town maybe the 3rd week in January?
  - Croey: Let's make sure we know when that is so they have our support.

#### 5. Sustainability Committee Update

- Corey: Noli who's on SAC and IGI will help improve the compost system. Our current system is working well. Brunos picks up the compost and brings it to IGI compost. \$28 a month.. Follow up with Brent on if we need approval.
- We are working on being a Green Ribbon School. We've been talking about it for a while. We're trying to gather information and piece it together. It's to say how green we are and also what areas we can improve on.
- We're working with WT on this too! So we can do joint purchasing and it can lift them up too.

#### 6. PTO Updates:

- The Skating Program** starts in January. We need parents who can skate to help. If you can help make sure to get CORI-ed.. Let Luke know that you would like to volunteer.
  - Katharine: We want to have a parent/student party at the end of the session. We also want to find a way to block off the ice for true beginners and advanced skaters. Cat is on the skating committee. Most parents have responded with the level of skating to Mary which is very helpful.
  - Cat: I have some idea about dividing the ice better. We can split the ice with mat dividers and make it productive for both skaters and beginners. Are they still having partners?
  - Cana: We are working on how to group and organize the students. We want to keep partners. Luke wants the primary goal be "learn to skate," and to have advanced skaters be teachers. The biggest problems to learn are falling down and getting up. I didn't use crutches like what was purchased to learn. Sounds like in the past the fast kid would ditch their partner. We want to focus on changing that.
  - Stephanie: We could have exercises that help them teach and have a goal to reach so they know their purpose and end.
  - Katarine: Who can skate? Jess Seeman, James, Sara Dingley will have a few HS students come to help teach too.
  - Jess: Can we reach out to Beth (rink coach) and get her plan or pay to have her help?

- Katharine: We have to find a balance with Luke's plan. He's open to ideas and getting that group together.
- Cat: Let's get together with Luke and discuss the plan. (She then volunteered to be over this program). I will email Luke and figure out the plan.
- Jess: I make a motion to approve spending \$225 for the Ice Rink rental. This does not include snacks, hot chocolate etc. if we choose to do that. We will have a party on the weekend for the whole school including parents, to show what they learned and then mingle in the warm room after.
  - i. Stephanie seconds. All in favor.

#### 7. The need for a new Treasurer

- a. No one has offered to do it. It could be time to reach out and pay someone.
  - Stephanie: My aunt is interested but she's also applying to be an assistant. She has done books for a long time. I will send her info to Brent so she can understand the role. She is newly retired and on a few different boards.
  - Jess: Let's keep that in mind and also keep reaching out! PTO cannot function without a Treasurer!

#### 8. Other

Indaia: Looking into January and MLK day. Do we do anything with that?

- Stephanie: Ask Jackie who did things in the past.
- Jess: You can also do something with Drew and the library.

#### 9. Fundraiser

- a. Date: March 17-24 and the party is the 23rd.
  - i. Jess is talking about the auction and delegating the various parts out. She wants to get parents involved. We need help!
    - Jobs: A publicity committee, silent auction, collection, have groups of people reach out to businesses who have donated in the past. (Corey and India want to do this together)
    - One thing we are going to be adamant on is **not allowing late submissions**. Let's have the class parents make that clear and also emphasize that this is THE only fundraiser. The money goes to every class budget every year. We are building the kitty now.
    - Casey & Kat will do the party

**10. Scholarship Award Approval:** Jess makes a motion to spend \$1,000 on the scholarship to a Chilmark alumni for June 2024. Stephanie Da Rosa seconds. All approved.

Close the meeting at 9:13 a.m.