

## PTO Meeting Minutes

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Attendees: Tracy Przybylowski, Jen Gallagher, Kara McMahon, Tricia Jennings, Ashley White, Sarah Marvin, Shweta, Raquel Murphy, Meg Taft, Kate Miller, Lauren Forman, Amanda Wollick

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President's Report, Tracy Przybylowski:

- Thank you to Lindsey Wisch for organizing Health Screenings, Shweta Sivaraman for organizing Picture Day and Gaby Snyder for coordinating the Halloween Costume Drive for the Daily Bread food pantry. Mr. Stever extended his gratitude to the PTO and said the kids at the pantry were thrilled to be able to select costumes.
- Halloween Candy Drive (Amanda Wollick) — Candy will be collected the day after Halloween, Tues, 11/1 thru Fri, 11/4. Amanda Wollick will have a blast sent to parents this Thurs or Fri (10/20 or 10/21).
- T&E Care Holiday Drive (Amanda Wollick) — We will be collecting toiletries and/or cleaning supplies for T&E Care at the Fall Festival and possibly after.
- Facilities Meeting, October 20th at 5pm — The facilities meeting will discuss air conditioning in school!
- Closet & Shed — The PTO closet and shed were cleaned out by Sarah Marvin (THANK YOU) and DES magnets, face painting kits, DES water bottles and 12 cases of water were found. If you think you can use these for your events please contact PTO. Some water bottles will be given to Tami Noelle for distribution.

FLITE Liaison, Robin Briggs: Robin spoke about the FLITE organization. FLITE stands for "Foundation for Learning In Treddyffring-Easttown," and is reaching it's 10 year anniversary. FLITE works closely with T&E Care to provide learning resources for children in need. FLITE is a fundraising organization that pays for the programs and resources to aid families. Examples include preschool tuition, ACP aid and after-school homework programs staffed by teacher and parent volunteers. FLITE has 125 volunteers but can always use more! All of their programs cost about \$300,000/year. Two fundraising campaigns are currently happening including bag donation at Whole

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Foods, where you can opt to donate your reusable bag refund to FLITE and “Help FLITE help kids” which a letter will be sent out about. To refer families in need, please contact Tami Noel, DES’s school counselor.

Treasurer’s Report, Cathy Rains: Cash on hand is \$126,000. The “buddy bench” school gift has been paid for, but are awaiting invoices for other school gifts. The school directory will bring in \$870 ad revenue. Deposits have been made for 4th grade yearbook and some cultural arts acts have been paid for as well including Comedy Sportz, Kwame Alexander.

Communications Report, Wendy Cook:

- Website (Michelle Seeger): The Devon PTO website will be updated month to month as Michelle Seeger onboards.
- Devon Dispatch (Robin D’agostino): Deadline for November dispatch is 10/28

Cultural Arts, Meg Taft & Carrie Cotton:

- Bee Man, 3rd Grade will be on 11/3/16. Usually kids taste honey during the presentation, but uncertain if that will be allowed given the District’s strict food policy this year.
- Kwame Alexander, 11/3/16. K-2nd grades assembly will be 9am, 3rd & 4th grade will be at 10 am. 100 books have been sold!
- Comedy Sportz, 11/9/16. K-2nd grades assembly will be 9am, 3rd & 4th grade will be at 10 am. The family show will be held on 11/11/16, 7pm, Valley Forge Middle School. Contact Meg Taft for advanced tickets!
- Franklin Institute Weather Show, 11/10/16 — 1st grade
- Delta Spring Show — Almanac Dance Circus Theater, March 22nd.
- Life of a soldier — Due to changes in the “Friends of Valley Forge” organization, the Cultural Arts Committee is investigating alternative ways to bring a similar experience to our kids. More to come ...

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Fundraising, Kara McMahon:

- Charleston Wraps, wrapping paper (Kate Farabaugh) — Orders should be delivered in November. Thanks to our volunteers, community, and Kate Farabaugh we raised more than last year! Total raised was \$2,000.
- Auction (Raquel Murphy) — Kara McMahon & Kim Niles will be chairing the party portion of the auction. Becky Caldwell and Lauren Forman chairing food. Raquel Murphy will recruit chairs for communications and solicitations. Currently we're still looking for someone to chair the bars.
- Camp Fair (Cathy Rains/Marissa Campbell and Megan Hillier) — Camp Fair will be held on January 25th. Camp Committee is looking for new camps to attend. Please email [mainlinecampfair@gmail.org](mailto:mainlinecampfair@gmail.org) if you know of a camp that might be interested in attending. Camp Fair is open to everyone and is FREE. It is one of our largest fundraisers and imperative to get good attendance in order to encourage camps to continue to attend. Registration for camps will be offered at a larger discount the earlier they register. Registration through October will be \$175, through December will be \$200 and after December registration will be \$225.
- Handels Spirit Day, (Diane Hoey) — Date is confirmed for April 19, 2017
- Sixers Event — The 76ers have contacted DES to offer an event night. Costs for tickets would be \$29 and if 90 tickets are sold, 20 of the kids could go into the High-Five tunnel. Kara McMahon is going to see if there is any flexibility on the cost of tickets.

Social Functions, Lisa Schrieber:

- DDIC (Devon Diversity & Inclusion Committee) — A letter and sign up sheet has been written to be given to all new registering families from 1st grade up. The letter welcomes the new families, introduces the Dragon Buddy Program and the PTO. It also has a sign up sheet for a Dragon Buddy on the back of the letter. Also, the DDIC is working on verbiage to help chairs of events include transportation for those wanting to volunteer but don't have a way of getting to an event.
- Fall Festival (Sarah Marvin) — Fall festival will be held Friday, 10/21. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! A volunteer spot went out today, but Sarah is asking help spreading the word and encouragement for friends to volunteer.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

- Staff Appreciation (Lisa Schreiber) — November 21 & 22nd. Lisa has been in contact with past chairs Kelly and Sheeva.

Issues, Affairs & Programs, Jen Gallagher:

- Green Initiative — LOOKING FOR A CHAIR.
- InterSchool Council (ISC) Update (Tricia Jennings) — Tricia reminded the group that the ISC is a forum where representatives from each PTO in the district and school board officials can discuss educational improvement and “resolutions for areas of concern.” The meeting dates and times are listed at <http://www.tesd.net/domain/10> and are OPEN to public. September’s meeting discussion included testing — PSSA, Keystone & AP Scores, laptops and online grading.
  - PSSA — In 2014 PSSA changed scoring and our schools did not do as well. In 2015 district scores were better. There have been discussion among parents about “opting out” of testing and the district is only allowing “opt out” for religious reasons in order to secure a 95% participation rate. There will be some kind of sanction from the state if our district dips below a 95% participation rate which it did last year.
  - Keystone — Keystone is the graduation exam at Conestoga High School and includes Biology, Literature and Algebra I. There is some concern that it does not test other areas where kids might excel.
  - AP — Conestoga High School does exceptionally well in AP testing averaging a 4.08 out of 5. Comparatively, the national average for AP testing is in the 2 - 3 range.
  - All 8th & 9th graders have been issued laptops and so far there have been no problems. There is a “help desk” in the library.
  - Schoolology — There is a new online grading system for grades 5-12 that allows for kids/parents to see homework assignments and grades.
  - Home Access Center — [tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) will have a “home access center” that will allow parents to change contact information.
- ARCH (Tricia Jennings) — ARCH stands for “Area Residents Caring & Helping,” and began in 1981 to give parenting advice specifically around drugs and alcohol. ARCH

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

meets monthly and is open to the public. Check out <http://www.archcares.org> for more information. There are 2 upcoming events:

- November 3rd, 9am, T/E Administrative Offices: PA Youth Survey Results will be discussed. PAYS is given every other year to students in 6, 8, 9, 10 & 12th grades. It examines behaviors, experiences and other factors that influence health and well being.
- November 9th, 7pm, TEMS — Screening of “If Only,” a film from the Mark Wahlberg Foundation for Youth discussing drug use and addiction.
- December 6, 7pm, TEMS — Dr. Ken Ginsburg will discuss resiliency in our children
- Sunshine Club (Lara Penny) — If you know of someone going through a hard time contact Lara Penny.
- Mileage Club (Julie Presgraves) — Scheduled for October (MWF) 19, 21, 24, 26, 28.

School Services, Kate Miller:

- Book Fair (Stephanie Cowgill & Ruth Pulliam) — November 14 - 18. Marci Popielarski will have a table featuring her “A Story Starring Me” books. A portion of every book will go to the PTO.
- Directory — distributed Wed, Oct. 19th.
- School Stores — Starting in Nov
- Spirit Wear — starting in Nov/Dec

Future PTO Meets (all at 9:30 AM except as noted)

11/16/16 (7PM)

4/5/17 (7PM)

NO DECEMBER

5/17/17

1/11/17

2/8/17

3/15/17