

Goodwin PTO Meeting Minutes
21 October, 2015
Goodwin Music Room 6:30–7:30

Present: Jen Scanlon-Passmore, Kristen Zadnik, Brice Bognet, Victor Dumeng, Marianne Legassey, Meghan Silliman, Jearl Clark, Veronica Barcelona de Mendoza, Alexia Smith, Virginia Walton, Jiff Martin

Recorder: Alexia Smith

1. Call to order: 6:35
2. Began with introductions of attendees.
3. Virginia Walton: works with schools on composting and recycling efforts and with town's broader sustainability efforts. Currently heading campaign to reduce the amount of food waste. An enormous amount of food is wasted from farm to house (40% in the US!). In richer countries a large amount of waste occurs at the consumer level (preventable food waste = approximately 1lb of food per day, \$1600 per household). Small changes can reduce waste significantly. Tips to reduce: 1) plan meals and develop shopping list accounting for food already in house; 2) store fruit and vegetables appropriately; 3) prepare ahead of time; 4) isolate one section of the fridge to store food that needs to be consumed quickly; 5) develop adaptable recipes (frittatas, casseroles, etc.).

Would like PTO to support campaign and encourage families to participate in events (e.g., to record the amount of household waste to raise awareness). Town received a grant to help sponsor the challenge. Funds available to provide equipment, entertainers.

4. Officer's Reports
 - a. President's Report (Jen Scanlon-Passmore)
 - i. New newsletter to enhance communication. Way to communicate to all parents in the school. Good feedback so far.
 - ii. New PTO Logo to enhance transparency. Logo can be disseminated as a jpg file. Should be included on all PTO communications so that people can distinguish our events from school events.
 - iii. Superintendent met with a Parent Advisory Council: she continues to work on issues with buses. Town will now hold bus companies accountable and will follow through on a tardiness contact. Fines can be imposed each day for late buses. Advisory Council is open to all parents. Next meeting will be announced ahead of time.
 - iv. Local Food initiative: this Friday a Harvest Meal will be held at Goodwin featuring local foods (local corn, carrots, apple crisp, pizza with butternut squash). Jiff Martin: National Farm to School month. Food Service Director in Mansfield is open to incorporating more local foods. Local apples were a big success. Parent enthusiasm would help greatly.

Should the PTO send a letter to the district expressing support and thanking managers and school kitchen staff for their efforts?
General agreement that this should be done.

- v. New Mansfield Playground has been built. Goodwin PTO provided food for volunteers. As a thank you we receive recognition at the park.
 - vi. Goodwin has received the Blue Ribbon Award!
 - vii. PTOs for Tri-schools are now meeting to develop collaborative efforts. Basketball game: currently exploring pooling parents from all schools to play against the Harlem Wizards (rather than have each school play against each other). Shows typically sell out. EO Smith can seat \$8000. Need to keep price affordable.
 - viii. Melissa McLaren had agreed to chair silent auction. Will meet soon to drum up support and divide work.
- b. Vice-president report (Veronica Barcelona de Mendoza)
 - i. Veronica is updating facebook and PTO email listserve.
 - c. Treasurer's Report (Tracy Rittenhouse not able to be present. Report prepared by Tracy presented by Jen Scanlon-Passmore):
 - i. Budget and proposed 2015–2016 budget distributed (included below).
 - ii. Motion to accept proposed budget by Meghan Silliman seconded by Jearl Clark. All approved.
 - d. Secretary's Report:
 - i. Minutes from last meeting submitted to Goodwin PTO website.
 - ii. Motion to accept proposed budget by Meghan Silliman seconded by Kristen Zadnik. All approved.
 - iii. PTO consists of committees and chairs are needed for each committee. Open committees needing a chair include: Basketball, Scholastic Book Fair.
 - iv. Request for contact information to include in Resource Book sent out last week. The name Resource Book can be confusing to new families. Unanimously agreed to rename the book the Goodwin Family Contact Book.
 - e. Principal's Report (Susan Muirhead): not able to attend.

5. PTO Business

- a. Teacher grants: Board met after last meeting to discuss budget. Need to spend some money given that we are non-profit. Have increased teacher grant to \$4000. Meghan Silliman: mentioned grant at UConn (\$1000–1500). Will follow up on deadline.
- b. Yoga: dates have now been set up. Information will be sent out via Facebook and email. \$10 donations. Parents could go out for drinks afterwards.

- c. Harvestfest/scarecrows: Meghan Silliman needs volunteers to decorate doors. Can be done Friday after school or Saturday after noon. Possibly engage teachers and have students place on door themselves. Still need candy. Meghan will check in with Ann Caranci about scarecrows. Will request volunteers through fraternities and sororities at UConn.
- d. Mileage Club: Jearl Clark: going well. Regular set of parent volunteers coming to help. New parents are getting involved. Will need more money to order additional feet and chains (\$150). Need a variety of colors. All approved \$150. Athletic Department at UConn: each sport needs to volunteer to get points. May be useful to recruit volunteers.
- e. Swap shop: the idea of established a swap shop was raised. Parents could donate/swap clothes. This will be discussed at the next meeting in more detail. WAIM is hosting a clothes drive so this will be given priority initially.
- f. Lego Club: Playwell Inc. offers Lego Engineering workshops for 11 to 16 children at a time. Workshops last 90 minutes and cost \$136 per child for an 8 week session. The PTO is exploring whether this can be initiated at Goodwin.
- g. Read to Succeed: program that encourages children read 6 hours independently outside of school. Students who complete the 6 hours get free ticket to Six Flags. Meghan Silliman: does Goodwin participate? Jen will follow up.

6. Motion to adjourn: Jen Scanlon-Passmore, Meghan Silliman seconded. Meeting adjourned: 7:50.

Treasurer's Report

Goodwin PTO Treasurer's Report
Profit & Loss Statement
 July 31, 2015 – Oct 21, 2015

Starting Amount		\$24,255.80
Income		
t-shirts	\$180.00	
Tri-school Basket Ball (Spr2014)	\$120.07	
Yearbook	\$45.00	
Parent Contribution	\$1420.00	
Total Income	\$1,765.07	
Expenses		
Pizza	\$37.52	
Sitter	\$75.00	
4 th Grade Promotion (Spring 2014)	\$25.00	
Ice Cream Social	\$193.32	
Community Playground Build	\$97.32	
Backpack Brigade	\$291.18	
Total Expenses	\$ 719.34	
Profit / Loss	profit	\$1,045.73
Box Top Balance		\$2904.14
Balance		\$25,301.53