

Muscota New School Parents' Association
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 8:40 AM

Meeting called to order at 8:43 AM by PA President, Margaret Peeler

Quick Announcements

1. Thank you to volunteers who helped out during Eco-Fest Rally. Special thanks to Michelle DelGuercio for organizing the school to get us to the park and all the great workshops. You can sign up to her blog to get more information about Skraptaacular Events.
2. Take your parent to Lunch Day is Wednesday, October 19 from 12:20 PM to 1:15 PM. Experience school food. Need help checking people in, if can help arrive at noon. Cost is \$5 (cash only). K-2 will go out to yard, 3-5 will go to the cafeteria.
3. Mad Hatter's Parade is Tuesday, October 25 at 1:15 PM. This is a fun alternative to Halloween and Traditional Fall Festival. In the past the Mad Hatter picked up from the classroom, paraded around school and then ended in the gym. This year we will gather in gym first, so Mad Hatter will still pick up from the classroom, go to gym, dance and then leave for Parade at 2 PM
4. Mad Hatter's Ball is Saturday, October 29 from 6-9 PM, please invite friends and publicize the event. We have colorful flyers for people to hang up in building or ask stores to hang up in windows. We will send out pdf as well that we can print. You don't have to go to Muscota to come to the Ball. We also need Food Donations, people to come to decorate starting at 1 PM, access to at least 20 same size boxes for the cardboard maze and people to sign up for shifts at game and activity stations.

"Stacking Speakers" – How it Works

When we have a lot of people who want to speak, we assign someone to keep track of name and order in which they raised their hands to comment or ask a question.

Health and Wellness Committee Update and Discussion (Katie Soares)

Katie met with partnership group, all agree that there is too much processed food. Trying to get Hamburgers removed from menu. There is a school partnership meeting on the first Tuesday of every month in the morning. The next Partnership meeting is on November 2nd at 10 AM. We need more parents to pay attention to issues. Katie will eblast to let parents know when next meeting will occur. There are also a couple of Amistad parents interested in the school food issues.

SLT Report (Katie Soares)

Next meeting is tomorrow Wednesday, October 19 at 3:50 PM. It is the 2nd meeting of the year. A flyer is also going home in the family folders tomorrow explaining what the SLT is and the dates of the next few meetings. Anyone can attend as a silent observer but if you have a topic you would like to bring to the attention of the SLT you need to let Katie Soares know.

Treasurer's Report and report new expenses (Amy Slattery)

Our bank balance is \$20,000. Expecting to pay about \$2000 for Carnegie Kids program and teacher's fee for attending professional development for program.

Eco-Fest also had some fees that we are splitting with PS 178 and Skraptaacular, about \$250. Moved to share cost, was seconded and approved.

Class Parent

Parents still needed for the following teachers: Jackie M/Ellen (3rd grade), Lauren (4th grade), Marissa/Tanica (4th grade), Steve (5th grade), Dayna (Drama), Sasha (Art) & Megan (Music). This is a great way to support teachers.

Progress Report Discussion (1st-5th grade reports sent home Friday)

1st – 5th graders received the first of 5 forms of communication regarding progress. 1st graders just received reading, 2nd – 5th graders received a reading and math assessment and Ks got an overview of the year.

Parent Feedback included

- Good to have at beginning of year but would like to know more as to where child should be at for his age
- Cover letter for math assessment should have come from Camille, not aspiring principals
- If goal is to inform parents then not quite there but on our way
- Needs more personalization
- Positive feedback about letter that went home about what Ks would be doing this year
- 1st grade parents noted that they received a bad copy with no cover letter
- Maybe a new letter with a better explanation could go home, also it would be nice to see progress in a timeline format, what child knows/learned and what they will be learning.

Principal's Report

1. Music Program. Music program cognitively demanding music program for our kids and teachers. As progressive educators we educate the whole child. Educating teachers is well-spent money.
2. Make sure you sign and return your compact.
3. Doing more explicit things around bullying, especially with 4 and 5 graders. 5 graders went to see presentation by cast members of the Addams Family, included discussion about bullying. We are teaching our children to value community and not value hitting back. Talk to your children about the community meetings held in their classrooms and ask them how they look.
4. Progress Report. In order to be compliant the Principal needs to report to DOE about how kids will perform instead of just using standardized tests. In response to previous comments the K was a narrative of what child would be learning and the 1st grade reports were missing a cover letter and should have had better shading. The progress report is a snapshot of where your child is at, as a learner. If parents do not know what a running record is they should ask their child's teacher and they should know their child's reading level. They should also know the habits of their child as a reader. The Math report was based on the baseline core standards the kids needed to know last year. Camille passed a rubric about the math assessment.

Meeting adjourned.