

PTA Meeting Minutes April 11, 2013

Present: Jennifer Stella, Christine Sullivan, Erika Graham, Connie Gaylord, Bear Simmons, Chris Cook, Kaiya Korb

Book Sales Recap:

\$285 will go to the library as proceeds from the book sale.

Could there be a benefit to inviting children from other schools?

It is a lot of work for a little amount of money, but the goal is not to fundraise it is to generate excitement over reading and to ensure each child gets a new book.

Timing of the fair: more sales in the past before Christmas rather than March timeframe?

Perhaps have the fair set up after the ski program? There is a lot of traffic at pick up time...

Green Up Day – Thursday, May 30th – 2:30-6:30 pm

Chris Cook will be coordinating the green up day this year. Last year's green up day was not well attended. Maybe this year a volunteer sign up sheet would be helpful. This year will be mainly weeding, mulching and pruning/hedge clipping. KLK to-do list and sign-up page. CC will put up the Sandwich Board. Evite to the school community will be sent out by KLK. ES will make a please come invite to hand out.

Snack table: bring a snack or drink to share with the group.

Could we expand the ASK program that day (KLK will check)?

School Garden Update

The week of artist in residency May 6th we will be very garden focused at school, and by May 15th sometimes we have lost the garden to weeds. We will also be working with After School Kids to have an ASK garden committee. We also have some kids who are very avid gardeners and we will be deputizing them to work in the garden if they wish during recess. May Day (Weds May 1st) might be a good kick off for garden clean up. Garden meeting was held

yesterday and some narrow raised beds will be constructed on the outside edges of the garden.

Girls on the Run

Request for funding for \$200 for shoes and clothing for kids that need it. Nationally subsidized 501C3 runs the program. Each child pays \$75 to participate and scholarships are available for that.

Walk and Roll Week / Safe Routes to School Update:

- New travel plan submitted October 2012 (see <http://saferoutes.vermont.gov/sites/saferoutes/files/WaitsfieldTravelPlan-Oct2012.pdf>)

- video from Fall 2012 (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=334zspDW_Pk)

Outline of tentative Spring, 2013 Activities:

- Friday, May 10th (2:30 - 7 pm)
 - Bicycle Safety Check at Waitsfield Elementary School
- M-F May 13-14-15-16-17
 - Bike, Walk and Roll to School Week / Valley Walk and Roll (see: <http://www.valleywalkandroll.com/>)
- Saturday, May 18th
 - Walk or Bike to the Bridge Street Art Fair (2:00-8:00pm)
 - Bike Parade to the Bridge Street Art Fair (Leaves from Waitsfield School at 2:00pm, park cars at Waitsfield Telecom).

Update on Teacher Appreciation Lunch – May 8th 12-1 pm

Steph Cramer has agreed to coordinate and the information is already in the newsletter. Beth Libby is coming to provide massage. If we can get three therapists working and we will need to get pre-sign up for massages. No babysitting will be provided so line up a friend... Need to come up with ideas for gifts by the next PTA meeting.

Grounds and Playground Update

The school has the opportunity to acquire a 4 acre piece of land around the school and is working with MRPA for the purchase; if PTA can help fundraise that would be great. Looking for approx \$10,000 to contribute. Perhaps we could commit an amount over five years using extra funds collected from ski and skate sale?

ECO Program

Has been a huge success this year (12 sessions). Ann Beattie would like to expand the program next year (25 sessions). This year PTA paid \$2000 for it, next year the price tag is \$4600 and KLK only budgeted \$3000, so the program can only happen if PTA can chip in \$1600.

Spring Arts Festival Update – Sat. May 18th from 2-8 pm

Nora has put together several google documents of to do lists and appreciates the help. Could use about \$700 more in funds – looking for donations!

Common Core

Connie Gaylord asked about Common Core. Bear Simmons has heard the words data mining.

Kaiya explained that we have had standards in VT – and KLK believes, based on what she has seen, that the new standards are going to be good for what kids need to learn. Critical thinking skills.

Constitutional right to be in charge of our children's education.

NECAP – state determines what assessment we make everyone do.

State has signed up to do SBAC and implement by 2015.

Data mining – no child left behind? (parents are concerned)

No money from the federal government if criteria are not met. They have been taking the results and doing an analysis.

Instructional concern (Christine Sullivan) – what will classroom and educational experience going to be if we go computer based work?

Michael Hock – state assessment coordinator – married to Katie Sullivan – KLK encourages people to talk to him.