

## EDGARTOWN SCHOOL PTA MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 10, 2015 – 8:30 AM

### I. Welcome + Introductions

Meeting Participants: John Stevens (Principal), Frederica Carpenter (PTA Vice President), Rebecca Rabeni (PTA Secretary), Nancy Cole (School Librarian), Melinda DeFeo (School Garden), Peggy Chambers, Caroline Fenske, Elizabeth Ward, Melissa Kagan

Approval of October meeting minutes- Melissa motions, Caroline seconds

### II. PTA Update

- Have a record number of PTA members this year; 45 signed up; 15 are teachers
- Will publish list with emails and committee's soon

### III. Committees

Scholastic Book Fair (Nancy Cole)- Book Fair was very successful this year but feels it was a bit too long. Nancy suggests only doing 5 days next year instead of 7. Total amount of money raised in past years' was as follows:

2013- \$9,045, 2014- \$11,430, 2015- \$11,299 **NOTE:** Nancy delivered PTA check proceeds \$1,386.00 (Frederica put in PTA mailbox for PTA Treasurer Susan Sanford.)

Room Parents (John Stevens)- All but one class is covered; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Fournier, question was raised as to the role of room parents, John said basically they are to support the teachers and are liaison between teachers and PTA; John suggested he will put together a list of roles as well as guidelines and suggestions on how to support teachers; recommended that the room parents do something special for teachers on their birthdays; Caroline suggested to get emails from Darren of all the parents in each class if unable to get them via the forms.

Halloween Party (Frederica Carpenter)- Great event run by Deanna Laird, a record number of volunteers helping out, and quickest amount of time to take down the event. John Stevens confirmed that parents and the school wellness groups appreciated healthy options!

Cristoline Fundraiser (Frederica)- Deanna Laird orchestrated successful new fundraiser with this company, goods arrived well before Thanksgiving. Deanna has information on the funds raised, and any changes she's like to see for next time.

SchoolA (Melissa Kagan)- Earned \$477 so far. 74% of what was donated has been sold, about 18 boxes. We could do another in spring. Suggests we do the sorting over 3 days and distribute to different post offices- Edgartown PO was a bit overwhelmed. We can publicize better next time. Families can also do on their own on an ongoing basis- just need to go to SchoolA website to download info and tags for bags. SchoolA pays out money quarterly, so we received \$35.79 for the third quarter but more is to come. **NOTE:** There is a check pending for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter that needs to be transferred from Edgartown School (Elie - School Treasurer) to PTA (Susan Sanford).

Vineyard Propane (Frederica)- Confirmed process that parents need to submit 2<sup>nd</sup> page from their bills which says "Community/School Days Receipt" to the box in the office.

A+ Program (Frederica)- We had a huge push (thanks to Pam Hurley) with lots of new people signed on this year. Program only generally runs until spring, then stops for the summer. Continuing to push this throughout the school year.

Other Fundraising Possibilities- Target is no longer doing a School Fund Program, but Amazon Smiles is another program to pursue. One must be on the Amazon Smiles page when checking out for school to get credit. Caroline Fenske will look into the procedures and document them so that room parents can distribute to other classroom parents via email.

School Garden Sustainability (Melinda DeFeo)- Emphasis on “sustainability”. Working on finding donors to fund Melinda’s position at Edgartown School, since she is no longer funded by IGS (Island Grown Schools). There will be a cocktail party on Dec 2 or 3 at Rosewater to help raise \$20,000 to secure her position for the next 3-5 years. They are also looking into an event in the spring hosted by Morning Glory Farm which will be a dinner in the greenhouse. At this point, Melinda has been volunteering a lot of her time. In the future, the position will be overseen by the town. Any donations need to be approved by the Selectman. In addition the program will need money for garden maintenance (which covers supplies) and can maybe be funded by the PTA. The PTA had graciously donated the funds for the greenhouse in past. Sarah McKay has been very involved but they are looking for volunteers and maybe even some parent chefs to serve on the committee. Any help would be appreciated. Seeds fundraiser coming this spring, Rebecca Briggs driving this. (Seeds fundraiser will replace Flower Power).

#### **IV. Planning Calendar**

- Deanna and John Stevens have pending meeting regarding coordinated fundraising calendar for the school year.
- Some upcoming key events of note: Craft Fair at the school on Saturday (Dec 12) during Christmas in Edgartown, Pizza Bingo Night this winter to be confirmed, other events to be publicized soon.

**V. Treasurer’s Report**- deferred until next meeting

#### **VI. New Business**

- School Committee Meeting on Thursday at 8am. Frederica volunteered to speak for 5 minutes regarding PTA activities and fundraising. Meetings are generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every -month for those who might want to attend.
- Suggested that we put together a list of what the PTA funds and what events we do, to communicate the value of the PTA to the school community. Frederica is working on aggregating this list for distribution, and room parents can also share with other classroom parents to help build support for the PTA efforts.
- Melissa Kagan is looking for more parents to join the School Advisory Council. They need a majority (more than 49%) to be non-administrators/teachers. If you can carve out an extra hour of time meetings are generally following the monthly PTA meetings every second Tuesday of the month. Kate McCormick, Pam Hurley and Lisa Sherman (new Edgartown librarian) are also on the committee.
- Next meeting will include summary about fundraising (per Deanna) for the new sign to go out front of school.
- Doris Ward is taking donations for the Compass plaque for the new Edgartown library which memorializes the old school and library. Information is on a sign to the right of office doors.
- Suggested to have Lisa Sherman come to the next PTA meeting in December to speak and give information on how to become involved in the new library, as well as getting kids involved in volunteering to help move books.
- Deanna is working on a speaker for the next large group meeting.

#### **VII. Closing Comments**

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am