**Cider Mill PTA Meeting Minutes**

**October 9, 2018**

Attendees:

Amanda Patania, Lara Paschalidis, Jackie Couch, Lisa Finn, Alex Frisbee, Tara Butler, Michelle Krupa, Laura Rowley, Emma Halliwell, Cheryll Ryder, Sabeth Albert, Kara Berghaus, Ritu Malik, Clare Passaro, Sarah Antonson, Youjin Hekle, Claire Anastasia, Ezra Murray, Beverly Brokaw, Emily DuBrock, Dr. Jen Falcone

1. Meeting convened at 9:20am
2. Welcome by Amanda Patania and Carolyn Lyon

Thank you to Shannon MacDonald for running the school’s 1st Annual Color Walk! The kids and teachers alike all had a great time. We had record number of parent volunteers, which was great to see. Thank you to the staff and administration for allowing the PTA to run with the new event and supporting it.

Addressed the Section 4 Bylaw Amendment from last month’s meeting. Has been made public for one month and time to vote. Carolyn Lyon made the motion to approve. Laura Rowley seconded. Motion passed, no one opposed.

We have 3 new Book Fair Chairs, so we are good to go for November Book Fair. We have 3rd and 4th Grade Fun Night chairs set in place.

Carolyn Lyon will be pushing the Stop-n-Shop Rewards Program during the next month in all communications to parents. You sign up once and are automatically enrolled year after year. It is easy money that goes right to the PTA.

1. Principal’s Report- Dr. Jen Falcone

Thank you to the PTA for running the Color Walk. The teachers and administration had a good time and the students all loved it. Lots of positive feedback from parents.

Zero Waste Fridge Survey went out in prior week and had little response (only 19), however all responses were positive. Communication will be sent out to the parents on what the program is and how the students/staff will be using the refrigerator. Based on usage, will determine how the items are donated. Right now, there are minimal items like chocolate milks, whole fruits, cheese sticks, and yogurts which are being used by students and staff for snacks when needed. If we start to have an abundance, we may have the food pantry pick-up.

LetGrow Project has started. Friday, projects were sent out to students with their first assignment. Wednesday, a reminder will go out. Ask parents to please engage in conversation with their student re: each month’s project.

A survey was sent out to parents re: Digital Workshops for Parents. The WPS wants to get feedback from parents on what their interests are so they can provide appropriate workshops.

Math and Literacy nights were well attended, and concerns were raised on the High School Math program. There seems to be a dichotomy between Elementary program and High School program. Would like to have PTA get in touch with Trudy Denton to create a workshop to specifically answer questions on this topic.

Carolyn Lyon questioned when the start of Typing Club will begin. Ezra Murray (LLC) answered that we are starting the 3rd LLC cycle and Typing Club will be introduced. All students will go through a 3-5-minute assessment prior to them being able to login and start typing.

1. PTA Teacher Representative- Cheryll Ryder

Introduced Ezra Murray from the LLC to discuss the “Fall into Reading” Project. Ezra explained that Mrs. Redin, Mrs. Ryan, Mr. Greasley, and herself have created a fun creative project for the whole student body to participate in during Halloween week. Every student is welcome to craft a pumpkin into their favorite book character (it will either be done at home on in-class). After Halloween, all pumpkins will be displayed around the school and teachers will be asked to let their classes explore the artwork and hopefully get excited about trying out new books based on what they see from their peers.

They have asked the PTA for a $1500 grant to provide each classroom with paintbrushes (reusable), paint, glue, and paper cups/plates.

1. Guest Presentation from Blue Zone- Emily DuBrock and Beverly Brokaw

Project is based on Dan Buettner’s NATGEO study from 10 years ago to find out what creates healthier and happier living environments. All research can be found on the website, [www.bluezonewilton.com](http://www.bluezonewilton.com)

Q & A session with Tony Buettner (Dan’s brother) on October 23rd at the Clune Center

Currently zero communities in NE- Wilton could be the 1st!

OFFICER REPORTS

1. Treasurer Report- Lisa Finn

Nothing to report other than we didn’t raise as much money for the Color Walk as in past years. Will come up with other fundraisers throughout the year to compensate the loss.

MobileArq will be sending us membership dues by the end of the month. All money goes directly into PTA fund.

1. Membership Report- Alex Frisbee

As of October9th, we are at 367 members- 335 parents/families, 32 teachers

1. Fundraising Report- Carolyn Lyon on behalf of Shannon MacDonald

We had 2 classes with 100% participation in the Color Walk. Those classrooms will receive new books from the visiting author for their libraries.

1. Secretary Report- Jackie Couch

Approval of September 2018 meeting minutes. Jackie Couch made the motion. Amanda Patania seconded. Motion passed, no one opposed.

1. Parent at Large- Dr. Jen Falcone speaking on behalf of Ritu Malik

Lenore Skenazy discussed LetGrow project. The assessment report update is posted on the district website under Curriculum/Assessments (SBA). Upcoming meeting will have each school discuss their growths in certain areas. There was conversation based on the Mission Statement of WPS- how does it fall in line with more traditional learning methods?

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Hospitality Report- Sabeth Albert

Getting ready for the Veteran’s Day Breakfast Assembly on Tuesday, November 20th

1. Gifts and Grants Report- Michelle Krupa

$1500 Grant Request from LLC, Mrs. Redin and Mrs. Ryan for “Fall into Reading” Project (see above). Michelle Krupa made the motion. Jackie Couch seconded. Motion passed, no one opposed.

$302 Grant Request was granted by the Board of Directors for Special Education Teachers to purchase Orton-Gillingham teacher and student materials to be used by their teachers and students. 1 Teacher Guide (ABCs of O-G), set of 6 readers, set of 5 workbooks, 2 sets of 1011 jewel word strips.

1. Zero Waste Report- Laura Crowley

Created new signage for the students to grasp a better understanding of what goes in each bin.

Zero Waste Week in October will have a daily topic that focuses on one aspect of Waste/Compost/Recycling.

Trying to teach students to bring home items that are not eaten to hopefully teach parents that these items are being wasted because child isn’t eating them for one reason or another. Hope to create dialogue between parent and child.

1. SEPTA Report- Kara Berghaus

Planning with district on strategy and mission. Have filed their charter. Have found a Treasurer. Meeting with all schools to discuss their focus and the schools’ needs. Will have 1 PTA to support all schools.

1. Wilton Youth Council- Kara Berghaus

Ross Greene’s presentation Children Do Well When They Can: Identifying & Collaboratively Solving the Problems That Cause Challenging Behavior, was very well received. Check out his website, [www.livesinthebalance.org](http://www.livesinthebalance.org)

Upcoming: Tracey Masella’s presentation of Mindful Parenting: How to Make It Out in One Piece in January

LetGrow Project will have PBS filming in and around town. They will also have a High School Focus Group going on.

1. 5th Grade River Study- Jackie Couch on behalf of Brenda Aversano

September 26th parent meeting went well, another scheduled for October 9th. All 5th Graders will be doing their River Study during the month of October.

Questioned whether this program will continue as it is hard to find volunteers because of big commitment and lack of scheduling.

1. Spirit Wear- Jackie Couch on behalf of Amanda Mitchell

100% of budgeted funds has been used. All t-shirt styles have been replenished for the year.

1. Other Business

Michelle Krupa announced Turkey Trot is scheduled for November 9th. It is a fundraiser for Wilton Social Services. Sign-ups for students and volunteers will be sent out shortly.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:30am.