

Meadow Drive PTA  
January 15, 2020 – Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Pres. Alecia Pace, VP Melodie K and Rec. Secretary J. Carbone; approximately 40+ attendees (see sign-in sheet), Ms. Wolf & Principal Ortiz.

Family STEAM to follow at 7:00pm.

**1. Call to order** – (6:17pm) Pres. Alecia Pace greets attendees in a classroom: Welcome, please remember to Sign-In, grab a copy of the treasurer’s report and last meeting’s minutes. Fill out a raffle ticket for attendance!...raffle for attending meetings, the \$100 gift card to Target will be at our last meeting is June 8th – not on district calendar, make note – it’s also the Volunteer Appreciation night. General intro about role of PTA, our mission @ Meadow.... Please join, sign-up, volunteer (green binder – Jeanne Fischer). Everyone is welcome, all ideas are welcome meadowdrpta@gmail.com.

**2. Membership:** reached and surpassed our 320 goal...currently at 344! Why join??? Funds support cultural arts, providing equity to all students who may not be able to attend evening or out-of-school events. Also have a PTA scholarship to help students, but their “parent” must be a member in the student’s senior year in that school.

### **3. President’s Report :**

#### **Old Business**

- Cultural Arts Report: The PTA hosted two assemblies in the fall. We had an interactive multicultural folk dance festival from the Phyllis Rose Dance Company in November which featured dances from Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Spain and more. In December, Backtrack Vocals returned for the second year with an acapella performance featuring holiday and contemporary tunes. The group also taught the children beatboxing! Twitter had great video from the show.
  - Visit from Hanna Gavios (injured motivational speaker) was great with kids. Ms. Wolfe added how great the visit was; Alecia told general membership, Thank you for your trust...Her visit was funded through the contingency budget you approved in September!
- Miss Chocolate helped fund the Backtrack assembly – Thank you! Please continue to contribute!
- Family Movie Night – used MemberHub to sell tickets for the Premiere of Frozen II on 11/21/19 @ BowTie Cinemas. Thank you Sophia Palominos! HUGE success.
- Pajama Drive 12/2-6, over 230 PJs donated to R. McDonald House, THANK YOU!
- Holiday Boutique on 12/10–12 was a big success. Parents happy, feedback from one parent noted that she received a “stepmom item” last year, but now this year received a “mom pen”. Warms our hearts to see students be able to get gifts for people who mean the most to them.
- PTA Mail: Alecia notes, in an effort to recognize all correspondence and help on time, we will now lay out all PTA mail in the tables for all to see. Let us know if you have any questions.

#### **New Business**

- STEAM Museum – Melodie w/ Principal Ortiz: Great event tomorrow in school for the kids. Set-up museum with different activities; robots, building sections, music. Grade k 2 , Pre-K will have a separate event in March, Ms. Caroline Sarosy is organizing and we will need volunteers
- Reflections – Celebration TBD – Winners announced, special thanks to Donna Patron and Alecia who assembled the bulletin board in the cafeteria to showcase all the entries.
- Parents' Night Out Regatta Fundraiser (on 4/4), Alecia: Notes from the 12/4 planning meeting are available on MemberHub. Jeanne Fisher reports: Now is the time for us to start with solicitations for this fundraiser. There's many ways you can help with this. We need people who can pop in to local businesses all around town. Our local businesses are very supportive and often very generous with donations. Or if you're on the computer a lot, perhaps you can make some online submissions. We've got a huge spreadsheet of both local businesses and large corporations so if you're willing to help out, we'll send you a link to the master document and you can flag any businesses that you can reach out to. Please UPDATE the spreadsheet or let us know if you contact someone so we don't double dip. If you want to help, please make sure that your name is on the volunteer sign-up sheet in the green notebook and please pick up a stack of letters that you can give out to the local merchants.

\*\*\*Papers/letters for solicitation available (on table), including TaxID form

Next meeting 2/12 @ 7pm, Wrap Party on 3/21 @ 6:30pm

- Health & Wellness Committee: Alecia reports – PreK drop off is dangerous. Need a better system. Principal Ortiz continues: Safety is our #1 concern, so PLEASE use better drop-off and pick-up habits. Pre-K - Please practice safe driving and park in legal spots only. Nearly an accident yesterday (Alecia's son).
  - Handwashing, Ortiz continues, BIG campaign... new signs (dual language) in classroom & bathrooms, color & clear. Lunch aides to help out Pre-lunch and there is another hand sanitizer available. Ms. Rouskas is discussing mold, and parents please discuss/practice these habits at home, we appreciate the support.
  - Mindfulness: our new focus, with kindness, teachers are providing "calm" time after lunch to allow for a more productive afternoon.
  - Alecia adds: a Message from the School Nurse, Mary McDermott: Thank you for asking what the students need. Whether a bathroom accident, mud, or playground mishap, the students of Meadow Drive could use the following:
    - 7 pairs navy/black/grey size 5-7 sweatpants
    - 5 pairs navy/black/ grey size 8-10 sweatpants
    - 6 to 9 t-shirts, size 5-7 small
    - 6 to 9 t-shirts, size 8-10
    - 12 pairs of underwear, small, med, large (PreK-2nd grade size)
    - Socks: 12 pairs, youth size (PreK-2nd grade)

*For sanitary reasons, please buy new clothes ( wrapped underwear and socks). As always, thank you for all that the PTA does to support all the children at Meadow Drive.*
- Family Game Show Night, VP Melodie reports: Wed, Feb 5th, 6:30pm at the HS cafeteria. Always wanted to be on a game show? Here is your chance! This is a fun night for the entire family. There will be snacks and prizes. Please sign up to volunteer, even 15 min of your time will mean a lot.

- PARP, Reading kick-off assembly (with prizes etc...) being coordinated by Melissa Bory – great theme this year, Readers are Happy Campers, 3/2–16, Culminating event is...
- Family Reading Night! 3/16 @ 7pm, Katherine Bennett & Allison Ambrose arranging. Info coming, great family event!
- Book Fairies 3/9 – 13, Caitlin Moronta reports, collecting books, lightly used/worn all ages. Drop off at school and will be donating them. Need lots of volunteers to help organize books and drop them off. Need boxes (like copy paper) not too big, and very strong. Thank you!

c. Upcoming Meetings: 3/16 @ 6:15pm (election meeting), 5/4 @7pm-HS,6/8 @ 6:30pm

**4. Nominating Committee Report:** Jahn Corbo, nominating com. chairperson spoke...We all attended a training session and are now able to state the election process is open. We are now accepting nominations for next year's PTA executive committee. All positions are open: Pres, 2 VPs, 2 Secretaries and a Treasurer. Nominations accepted via email or form/letter. We will be voting on 3/16 (next meeting), By-laws state that the "slate" (the written list of nominees) must be finalized and posted publicly 2 weeks before the meeting. Please let us know if you have any interest or have questions/concerns. Best reached via email, Jahn. All emails and papers should be clearly labeled Nominating Committee and should be "sealed" /not opened until the committee meets.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** (Tres. A. Levine not in attendance) Alecia reports, please let us know if you have any questions about the budget (copies provided) we will not be voting on it, not fully balanced. Note the big budget due to unpaid bills etc.

**6. Recording Secretary's Report:** J. Carbone asks if any questions about November meeting Minutes... Asks for a motion to approve, Kathleen Gentile is first, and second from Caitlin Moronta. Thank you. Minutes will be available on website.

**7. SEPTA (Special education) Liaison Report,** Meeting on 1/27, all are welcome to attend. Goals has been to have 1 event at each school, so far: Holiday Social at Hampton, Painting etc... Next up Zumba at the H.S. in February. Helps raise money for SEPTA/kids. Also support SEPTA with a Shutterfly/tinyprints purchase, a donation is made....there is a link on the flyers that went home. Any questions, let us know. Thanks.

**8. District Council Delegates Report:** Sofia Palominos reports (Caroline Sarosy not in attendance) that the district council is all the PTAs in the district, we get together to share ideas, programs, best practices etc... 2 delegates from each school.

This past meeting we discussed:

- The Cultural Arts Winter Series is suffering; the numbers for the shows were low again this year. Should the day of the week/time be changed or is it just lack of interest?
- Hampton wants to align with Meadow and offer many of the same programs/assemblies (i.e. STEAM Museum). It was suggested we combine the event and bus Hampton students to Meadow. At that meeting, Caroline Sarosy explained how Mobile Ed has strict regulations on student numbers and it could not work.
- Writing Celebrations were removed from the calendar this year; no reason was given as to why.
  - ?Question Posed by Jeanne Fisher – Why? Are all celebrations gone? Not even one?

- R: Response from Principal Ortiz: The district is rethinking how we celebrate writing as a whole, and student work. Person who “ran it” last year is in a new role and so the program is in “limbo.” not sure what’s happening.
- ?: Jeanne Fisher: Would love to see writing work. Can something be done?
- R: Principal Ortiz: we could possibly do something just “school-wide”, not w district.

**9. Principal’s Message:** Building off that...Kids have been doing great things. Winter testing, NWEA, kids are incredible, moving forward and making progress. Keeping in line with Mindfulness & Kindness, we are shifting a bit to being “Life Long learners.” As you participate in this family evening event, do the STEAM activities and ask “What did you learn?” “How did you feel?” Talk to your kids about what YOU may learn.

Megan’s Law will be coming to visit with each grade, about 40 kids at a time. Discuss body safety, roles of people in their lives. \*Alecia Paces continues, Great presentation, done last year...talks to kids at their level, age appropriate and the program addresses a “check-first” policy so kids can become comfortable and know “what to do” if asked by an adult to help etc...Very empowering for the kids.

Side-note: The deadline for RSVP has passed, but the high school is still taking pre-registration for Carnival night. They will also take people at the door. This is a 2-hour **drop off** event for grades 1-4 at Mineola High School on 1/24/2020 from 5-7pm.

**10. Teachers’ Rep Message:** Ms. Wolfe, (reading teacher now) big thanks for the support. Assemblies have been amazing! Great watching Ms. Ortiz beatbox ☺, continuing Mindfulness throughout the school, Ms.Crawley (Music) plays “zen” music, 5 minutes to absorb, staff trained in the “growth” mindset and will continue to praise effort over mastery. Please try @ home too. All of Mineola District is shifting to this mindset, google Carol Dweck for more info. Mindfulness shifting to “Self-care” and handwashing... being heavily reinforced, new posters in bathrooms, and please continue at home... wipe down iPads and practice good habits. If kids are sick, fever etc... please keep them home. You know your child best, watch for their behaviors. Thank you!

**11. Closing Remarks/ Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm.**

**Notes:** Please join us for Family STEAM Night. Check-In at the front table. Enjoy!