

## Silver Hill Horace Mann Charter School

### PTO Meeting Notes:

October 2, 2017  
Library, 6:00pm

*Attendance: 18 participants*

Call to order 6:09pm

#### 1. Kindergarten Request for funding – *Mrs Bouchard*

Focus on Project Based Learning. K team partners projects with each unit. Looking for support for obtaining the following...

- Community unit – A storyteller, Tony Toledo \$750 – November 14/15. Can come over 2 day period and do something in each class. Great reviews. School has applied to the Haverhill Cultural Council for funding application request (so may recoup some of cost).
- Animal Unit – An owl man (came last year) \$375 December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Construction Unit – Visit from the Museum of Science. They come to the school and bring things to create/build bridges. One day/ 4 sessions March 22<sup>nd</sup> \$715 for the day.

*Vote: Approved*

#### 2. Treasurer's Report – *Andrea Barman*

- Huge deposit this month due to Cherrydale fundraiser. Still need to pay a cut to them. About \$7,900 profit and around 910 items coming to the school! Will need volunteers the week of October 24<sup>th</sup> for distribution. Sign- up genius for that will be coming via Facebook and email.
- Open house Kona Ice – profit roughly \$200
- Vote to approve 17-18 budget delayed to the end of the meeting to maximize participants.

#### 3. PTO updates – *Kristina Morowski*

- Santa Parade - This year's theme is "Christmas in the City". Parade is 11/19, with a float building day the day before. Looking for volunteers! Budget increase from last year due to expenses.

- PTO request for copier - The PTO would like to purchase a copier/printer and keep in the student store. Cost most likely above \$200 so need approval. Currently PTO s paying about \$100 for printing 600 copies. Can no longer use school copier.  
*Questions: If we have to buy a copier, will that sustain large copies? If we buy a printer, can we be on school's wi-fi? Can we tag on to an existing copier contract? How do other schools handle it?*  
*Decision: Research copier logistics and share out at next meeting.*
- Vendor Event - November 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 2:00pm. Vendor's buy a table for \$30. Sell their product. Will advertise to get some foot traffic. Fliers need to be translated/finalized then will be shared.
- Celtics Night – A family fundraiser?? Only weeknights available at this point. PTO agreed to table this until next year. Contact/put on calendar early for better dates.
- Corn Maze – need volunteers for checking people in. Will do a sign-up genius. Can pay at the door.

#### 4. Request for PTO assistance with attorney fees – *Foundation/Devan Ferreria*

For years the Charter was suppose to have an attorney. We never had one. There was an attorney on the Board of Trustees that advised on legal issues however he left the Board in the Spring. This past Spring when MTA got legal counsel involved, DESE recommended (again) that we seek our own legal counsel. At that point the Board of Trustees retained Barton Gilman, (Matthew Plain – Senior Attorney) to help with the charter confusion, correspondence with the mayor, and conversations with DESE. Nobody financially anticipated needing to retain an attorney and the amount it would cost. The Foundation is more of a management body, and strictly covers operating costs for the Charter which is about \$30,000 a year - any Foundation fundraisers cover just that. At this point all legal invoices have been paid from May to August but the Foundation is out of money and there are still (and will still be) legal bills to pay because we have a strict checklist to follow with regard to closing the Charter. The Foundation will do a few fundraisers as planned this year but that is it - the pies at thanksgiving, the mattress fundraiser in April, and maybe the gift cards at Christmas

time depending on what else is going on then. Hoping to raise \$5,000 total for the three.

*Question: What is rough estimate of an attorney bill? Answer: Latest bill (through August) was \$3,300. On average maybe \$2,000 – bills paid since May with a 10,000 retainer.*

*Question – What protection is the lawyer providing? What is the end result if we don't have attorney? Answer: We would be in default of our charter and could be taken over at any day. We need to close out in a respectful way, so no legal ramifications down the road for the Board, the administration and teachers. Otherwise we would be reckless...*

Decision: It is not in our best interest to terminate legal counsel  
Reviewed September PTO meeting notes/by-laws discussion about allowing PTO to provide a lump sum to Foundation for Foundation to use as they please.

Comment: High end estimate of legal bills for remainder of year \$15,000  
Currently PTO projects having a 7,500 (cushion fund) otherwise PTO would have to cut current budgets.

Idea: Donate to Foundation \$7,500

*Question: Will the Foundation do a Trivia night fundraiser? Answer: No. Bradford Country Club will not host us again – concerns with guests' behavior.*

Discussion to give Foundation money to cover the recent bill.

*Vote: In favor of PTO giving \$3,300 to the Foundation to assist in paying the September legal fees pertaining to the closing of the Charter.*

Meeting Adjourned.