

Squantum PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24th @ 6:30 PM

Volunteer Opportunities

Book Fair Registers at Open House
Picture Day
Trunks for Trunk-or-Treat
Election Day Bake Sale

See details in the meeting minutes below. For volunteering info see the PTO website at <https://www.squantumpto.com/volunteering/>

6:32 PM

We kicked off the meeting with introductions. Over 20 parents in attendance!!

Mr. Sylvia's updates:

- We have 343 students in 20 classrooms. Three classes in each grade except 4th grade, where we have two classes.
- Thank you for the neighborly approach to pick-up and drop-off.
- There's a new bus vendor that caused some initial scheduling hiccups early in the school year.
- Open House is Thursday night this week!! September 26 5:30 - 7:30
- Thank you to the PTO for Amazon gift cards to new teachers.
- New building update:
 - Construction teams are currently being interviewed. The hope is for a recommendation by the end of this week.
 - Construction is still slated to start next June. Work in the neighborhood is for city infrastructure projects. For information and updates, see <https://squantumschool.com/>
 - The project is approximately 2 months ahead of schedule.

- Picture Day is October 10 - **volunteers will be needed** to corral kids on this hectic day!
- Anti-bullying assembly for 4th & 5th grade was a success.
- Quincy Fire Department to share fire safety info with 3rd graders.
- Band starts next week for 4th & 5th grades. After school string program (violin, viola, cello) also starts soon.

- Ms. Healy shared an update on the new supplemental math program: Jiji. This works in conjunction with Illustrative Math. Ms. Healy elaborated on the value of the supplemental program; the students' goal is to reach 80% on "puzzle journey". It's accessible from home but will be focused on in class primarily.
- Thank you to Bruce Ayers for again sponsoring the Race to Read program. Participants will be entered into a raffle to win a new bike!
- Thank you to Jojo Croswell & volunteers for organizing the Book Fair which is this week.
- Thank you Skinner Overlook Landscaping, who once again donated a fall cleanup of the Outdoor Classroom.
- Thank you Leo Bergin and the Bergin family for fixing the outdoor neighborhood library. Punks can keep busting it up. "We will fix it forever." – *Jen Bergin*

Mr. Sylvia's requests:

- \$15 / pupil requested to fund field trips. *Motion was seconded and approved.*
- Unity Day anti-bullying celebration & lessons (Community & Belonging Team), school-wide assembly; guest speaker/storyteller's fee is \$1200 for 2 assemblies (K-2, 3-5). *Motion was seconded and approved.*
- Reminder of PTO by-laws: PTO can approve under \$500 without a second motion. The following was approved:
 - Ms. Thorne - ELA resource materials \$150
 - General supplies for Resource Room \$250
 - Ms. Healy & Mr. Sylvia large shredder for office (privacy) \$220~
 - Ms. Boss supportive literacy materials \$290~
 - Snacks for Nurse Coleman's office

Kim's Updates

- Kindergarteners and teachers got new school shirts for PBIS assemblies at their Popsicles in the Park welcome event.
- Teachers' stipend is \$250 for brand new teachers; \$100 for full time returning teachers and \$50 for part time staff.
- Thank you to a local woman in our community who donated \$30 / classroom. She asked to remain anonymous.
- Request from PTO: dues is \$25. This is non-mandatory.
 - Aside from dues, there is only one additional fundraiser in March: the Disney Raffle.
- The PTO purchased gifts for Austin & Troy as part of Custodian Appreciation day. We all are hoping Mike gets well soon.

- Trunk or Treat is coming Saturday 10/26 from 11:00-1:00; there will be a candy collecting contest in the days prior to Trunk or Treat. The grade that collects the most candy wins either an ice cream party or pizza party. **Volunteer your car!!** 20 cars needed.
- Unity day decorations are funded by PTO & we have a treat for each kid. The whole place will be decked out in orange.
- Election Day 11/5 - Bake Sale proceeds help raise funds for the 5th grade year-end activities (yearbook, party). **Volunteers needed to bake.**
- Veteran's Day 11/11 - Jen Bergin organizing donations for Quincy Veterans. There will be a request for \$2 / family sent home. PTO to donate \$200.
- 11/15 Parent's Night Out at the Post (with DJ Izzy). \$20 / person, cash bar. Donations requested for gift cards, etc. Gift basket raffle covers the cost.

Update from Jenelle and Lauren

Current balance \$36845.00

OUT: Teacher Stipends \$4150.00

IN: PTO Dues: \$5000~ (last year was \$6725).

\$374~ textiles (the clothes donation bin out back)

\$217~ school store

Update from Erin

Erin shared information from the City-Wide PTO meeting, which included an anti-bullying presentation.

Update from the Croswells

- Book fair is this week. **We will need register help during Open House** Thursday night.
- Make sure you are CORI checked and fingerprinted!
- We have a ton of Scholastic Dollars, so teachers are encouraged to supplement their classroom libraries.
- Proceeds from Book Fair can be paid in cash or Scholastic Dollars and we always choose Scholastic Dollars.
- Idea shared to supplement teachers with Scholastic Dollars during the Holiday season.

Odds and Ends

Last year's Field Day mural is hanging in the media center!

Chantey Gift Card winner is.....Huanyi He!! Congratulations!

7:32 PM