



# Franklin Meeting Minutes for February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016

**11:40 Call to order – Jeannette Korovilas**

**11:40 Approval of Minutes/ Membership Info: Bindu Pithadia and Monica Wojnicki**

**11:45 Treasurer’s Report : Carolyn Kosiorek**

- Carolyn was not at the meeting, so Jeannette reviewed the report.
- There was no income this month and only some Valentines Day homeroom party expenses.

**11:55 Teacher’s Spotlight**

**5<sup>th</sup> grade – presented by Ms. Sianis and Ms. Pankau**

- They have started a new science unit. They are getting ready for PARCC testing, which will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> and they are doing lots of work on fractions.

**4<sup>th</sup> grade – presented by Ms. Jones**

- They are working on fractions as well.
- There is a field trip coming on Tuesday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> to the Swedish American museum. This trip ties into student’s recent Ellis Island studies.
- Ellis Island Day has been going on for about 20 years. They kids really get so much out of it. They work on it all of November and December. Not only do they really learn a lot from the hands on experience, but the kids really look forward to it. Franklin started it and is known for this event. Parents strongly support this event.
- There was some concern over the invasiveness of the parents at Ellis Island day and how that affected the kids overall experience. There was a lot of talking in the hallways so the students couldn’t get the full experience of the scene setting that the teachers were trying to create. It was suggested that some changes needed to be made for next year. Perhaps setting some guidelines down in a handout for the parents to adhere to or having the parents go directly to designated seating in the auditorium so as to eliminate the hallway noise and create a better environment for the children to imagine the setting put before them.
- Science – working on electricity lesson.

**Kindergarten – presented by Mrs. Weller**

- They are working on decomposing numbers. For example 5 could be 1+4 or 3+2 or 3+1+1.
- They are learning about teeth and the mouth for dental health month.
- Daily 5 – kids have different literacy centers throughout the room that they can rotate to and use. For example: listening to books, reading books. The children really enjoy the centers and look forward to their literacy time as a result.

**12:20 Principal’s Report/ ELF updates – presented by Mr. Dan Walsh**

- Thanked the PTA for everything that they do. They really love the random acts of kindness. Teaches a good lesson and ties in well with Valentines Day.
- Myth busters meeting – no one showed up for the second month now. Mr. Walsh wants to give parents and opportunity to have face to face time with him to answer any questions, bring up any concerns or provide some new ideas for the school. It’s only one hour. If you can’t make it- he would like parents to please send an e-mail to him instead.
- Franklin is implementing the District Strategic plan. The first strategic objective is Mastering the 4 C’s - Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking
- Kindergarten registration has changed – it’s all being done online, but birth certificate and home language survey will need to be handed in at the school. The reason for this is that the home language surveys can be done in the parent’s native language. This will be done in April. They would appreciate if families would register as soon as possible. This determines how we retain our staff.

- We'll have to look at when PTA can give welcome packet and t-shirts out to incoming kindergarten students. Perhaps April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the open house.
- Report cards are coming home on March 11<sup>th</sup>. March 15<sup>th</sup> are Parent Teacher conferences. Teachers will let parents know if they require a conference. There will only one night this year instead of two.
- There are no financials back yet for ELF night. Overall, the committee felt that it was a big success.

## **12:40 Committee Reports**

### **Winterfest**

- This is the first time using online bidding – Silent Auction Pro – you can see all the baskets and auction items online ahead of time.
- Ticket sales are \$7 in advance or \$9 at the door
- There are 39 volunteers so far, but they need more – many people are busy Saturday during the day so they may consider changing the event to an evening next year.
- There will be Bingo in LRC, karaoke in gym, a kids under 8 game room, game show trivia
- Pizza and smoothies and cookies will be sold – cash only
- They are taking credit cards for everything else.
- There are 5-6 security Dad's in halls and making sure food stays in the gym and rooms are not getting trashed.
- Volunteer t-shirt - \$10 each to buy or rent for \$10 and then get the \$10 back when you return the shirt

### **Class Parties**

- PTA is thinking about doing the classrooms parties as a grade level party instead. Each room will have a separate party, but it will be the same party for all the rooms with a set of "head room parents" that come up with the games and crafts for the day and then other parents volunteers will just execute the plan in each room on the day of. This should help the problem of there not being enough head room parents.

### **Random Acts of Kindness – Meagan Fliechel**

- Hearts were distributed last week to teachers. It would be nice to have a full tree for Winterfest.
- A handout with a checklist was given to the kids to help them with ideas.
- There are a couple of "Choose to Be Nice" t-shirts that will be used as prizes.
- Student council kids have been reading examples each morning at morning announcements.

### **Diversity Week**

- Ms. Marks had lots of great ideas but there was not room on the school schedule so they will start next year.
- Some ideas were that kids could take home flags and decorate flag at home, they could have a show and tell, and dress up days.
- It will be whole week next year.
- Giant inflatable globe guy to come and talk about geography.

### **4-5-6<sup>th</sup> grade Dance**

- Kids thought that they needed to bring a date – perhaps call it a social for next year
- In April they will do one for the K-1-2 : DJ and snack and a bit more structured games for younger set

### **Cultural Arts – Dr. Cool**

- The older kids like the dancing
- The message was believe in yourself – don't give up
- The younger kids enjoyed it – although the message was not as strong as the party atmosphere.
- Maybe a stronger message for next year – a new vendor for next year.
- Teachers and kids really like the BMX bike guy – keeps kids engaged and has a clear strong message.

### **Science Club – there was not much to share**

### **Library -Scheduled Scholastic book fair March 20-22**

### **Student Council**

- Smencil sale is going on and now we are adding SMENS (smelly pens)
- Mrs. Pater and Donna Kotty trying to decide who the money is going to
- Perhaps donate to the food pantry – would like to incorporate a tour or something
- Perhaps the next service project can be to make sleeping mats out of plastic bags.

### **Buddy Benches**

- For kids who have no one to play with – they sit on the bench and someone can come to get them to play.
- There will be a tie in to bench sale and will begin after winter fest

### **Reading Garden**

- Still looking for ideas for the reading garden area outside

### **Healthy Living Week – Cristina Heotis**

- Some ideas are to teach kids how to make smoothies .
- Incorporate lessons from the Eat This Not That book.
- Have a pledge form for the week.

### **Night of the Starts – Janine Paprocki**

**All board positions are available – we have all openings available – The PTA would like to fill this soon so that the new officers can shadow and learn from the existing officers.**

**Book Club is going on into the second session – the kids love it.**

**12:40 Motion to Adjourn \*next meeting March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm\* - Mary Maestranzi and Christina Heotis**

**Members Present:**

**Jeannette Korovilas**

**Mary Maestranzi**

**Cathie Hirsh**

**Monica Wojnicki**

**Bindu Pithadia**

**Peggy Weller**

**Dan Walsh**

**Sara Sianis**

**Christina Heotis**

**Carol Pankau**

**Aimee Kish**

**Megan Fleishel**

**Brenda Kennedy**

**Mary Jones**