

# Miller Avenue Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization



## Meeting Minutes November 18, 2019

Miller Avenue School, General Purpose Room

### I. Meeting Called to Order at 6.03pm

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Attendance: 4 members plus 4 members of the PTO Board attended the meeting.

### II. Principal's Report - Mrs. Smith

Mrs Smith thanked the PTO for the Candy Buy-Back Donations which collected 230 pounds.

There was concern from parents about Halloween festivities due to the rain, which wasn't ideal to have one parent for the event, however it turned out well and the students did a great job.

Mrs Smith thanked the PTO for the "Nature Nick" Arts in Ed special event - especially the flamingo - the students and staff had a good time. It was professionally done, as well as being warm and friendly.

Mrs Smith is happy to continue to improve communications about PTO sponsored events with families. Mrs Smith spoke with Mr Poole about improving communication with families and the District Office is also encouraging this. Mrs Smith is working on a twitter account being approved, to help increase student events and happenings in the classroom with families. This could be linked on the school website, so people wouldn't

have to join twitter to see the updates. The District is working on an app for the whole District, which will be an internet safe place to avoid internet hacking etc, and which would streamline everyone. Teachers use different apps currently and different ways to communicate with families.

The new Food Service from the District has move from January 1st to February 1st 2020. The PTO were thanked for the PTO food service that will be able to continue the food service for this extension.

Student choral performances are confirmed as February 12th - during the day - in four parts of the day to allow for parents to attend.

A Family First Initiative is starting alongside Wading River School, where there is no homework one night per month. This will be an elementary initiative. The first date will be December 4th. It will be one Wednesday per month and will be on the calendars. The schools are trying to avoid other district events/concerts for this monthly night. This will be a family night at first, like board games, pizza night, or play dates to start, ideally not electronics, and then expand to a community event in the future.

### **III. Treasurer's Report - Lauren Verderosa**

The PTO received the first Amazon Smile donation of \$9.17. Please keep using Amazon Smile and select Miller Avenue School to be the non-profit of your choice.

The profit for the Fall Festival was \$706.84 which was good after the several postponements.

The Fruity Fridays profits for the school year so far are \$436.46.

The Smencils profits for the school year so far are \$474.26.

The Book Fair raised over \$4000 of scholastic dollars which the PTO uses to purchase books for students for the classrooms, Hot Cocoa Day, Incoming Kindergarten Day and First Grade Trips etc.

The PTO Donations Membership income so far is \$1187.95 - thank you to all who have joined the PTO and donated.

\$225 to be a non-profit booster club was paid and the insurance paid since the previous meeting.

### **IV. President's Report - Elizabeth Valencia**

#### **A. Old Business:**

The PTO Minutes were accepted from the October 2019 meeting.

The Sportswear Fundraiser is still available online. The link is on the [milleravenuepto.org](http://milleravenuepto.org) Orders must be placed by November 25th 2019 in order to ensure holiday arrival. Thank you Kelly Klein for organizing this fundraiser. The delivery location/method will be confirmed.

The Frozen 2 Movie Showing Fundraiser will be at Island Cinemas in Mastic on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. It is \$13 per ticket per person which includes ticket, popcorn and drink. Tickets are available on [frozen2.cheddarup.com](http://frozen2.cheddarup.com)

Box Tops were submitted by November 1st - the overall earnings this year so far is \$206. Kindergarten won!

The Candy Buy Back collected over 230 pounds (which is \$230 for the school) for local veterans and soldiers overseas. There was a VF person there collecting while we dropped off items which was meaningful to see. First grade won the collection! The recess prize will be scheduled for this week by teachers in first grade classes.

There is only one classroom that needs a yearbook volunteer for the Year Book. Thank you to everyone who offered to help out! Please see us if you would like to volunteer for Bolemach. Melanie Stroh offered to help if needed, as she is doing Mrs Jacobs Class already.

The Book Fair was a success. Thank you Erin Farley and Ashley Hadjoglou. Over \$1000 worth of books were donated to classrooms and almost \$4000 Scholastic dollars were earned for book purchases.

## **B. New Business:**

The next Smencil Sale will be on Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>. Everything is \$1.

A Holiday Pop Up Shop is being held on Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Holiday items are sold during lunch and range from \$1-\$3. Please send in money with your children so they can purchase gift for parents or grandparents or a friend for Christmas.

MOMA- Museum of Miller Avenue - is being held on Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm - 8pm - This is a family event where you can walk the halls of the school and enjoy viewing all students' artwork that is showcased in the hallways and available for \$25 purchase each. There will be a craft room, snacks, live music by high school musicians, a photo booth by Mr Hadjoglou. It is a free fun family night for all to attend.

A Hot Cocoa Day is being held on Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> for students during their class time. We are seeking holiday decorations please from families to help the PTO decorate the AP Room into a winter wonderland and Christmas theme. It is a Sing a Long time with decorations and hot chocolate for students from the PTO. There is a buddy the Elf photo area for class photos and there is a new sound system in the AP Room to enjoy.

**C. Other Business:**

The new District Food Service will be February 1st 2020. More will be known after the Board of Education Meeting in mid-December. The next PTO meeting isn't until late January, so there will be an email update on campus messenger sent to parents to keep informed. Mrs Smith also has a meeting next week with the district office so she will update families with anything she can find out. Fruity Friday will continue through the entire year even with the new District food service program.

The next meeting time will be at 9.30am on January 23rd 2020 at Miller Avenue School. Coffee and pastries will be provided.

Questions/Concerns/New ideas:

Parents asked about teacher gifts and how to find out a wish list from teachers. Mrs Smith says its up to the parents to find out from teachers directly their preference/interests.

A member had a question about the clubs - do the students have a choice for the clubs? Mrs Smith confirmed that a letter was sent home about the 2nd grade student council and Project Adventure. One student got play pals, but she preferred student council. Mrs Smith met with club advisors and confirmed the philosophy is where anyone who wanted to be in a club can be in a club. Wading River School has a spreadsheet that is sent home for students to write down their ranking preference. They will aim to do this at Miller Avenue School next year. The clubs are often run at the same time so students can not be in all clubs. Ideally everyone should be a part of one club, but there are few clubs and they run at the same time. Wednesdays are usually club days based on schedule for extra help etc. There is a science group from TESLA that isn't to do with Miller Avenue School - it is on TESLA's website to register with under Educational Programs.

There was a motion to adjourn at 6.43pm which was accepted.

Minutes recorded by Miller Avenue Recording Secretary, Emma Tees

**MILLERAVENUEPTO.ORG**

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**Remind App for Alerts and Updates:**

Kindergarten: @mapto2032

First Grade: @mapto2031

Second Grade: @mapto2030