



Seneca Street PTO
436 Seneca Street
Oneida, NY 13421
info@senecastreetpto.org

November 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time and Location: November 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m., School Library

Meeting called to order by: Linda Buschatzke 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Colleen Kahler, Melisa Manix, Jennifer Dropp, Lew Kahler, Jill Rodegher, Karen Pitoniak, Stephanie Neff, Mike Hudson, Danielle Hudson, Jennifer Roberts, Lori Barretta, Kalpana Lenox, Cindy Smith, Penny Houser

Note: We tried Facebook Live during this meeting. It was well received, and we will use it for future meetings. Recording will be available on the Seneca Street PTO website and on the Facebook page.

Agenda Items:

Fun Run presented by Jennifer Roberts – Raised \$1,020 Online so far. Run will be during gym classes. Volunteers needed for tallies and totals (sign-up sheet circulated during meeting). Flat donations are accepted if donors are unsure about lap totals. There will be a free photo of each student taken at the end.

Box Tops presented by Melisa Mannix – More collection boxes to be placed in community locations. Winners from first collection will be chosen and announced on Thursday. Coming up with new ways to reach parents. Box Tops website has list of products with Box Tops on them. Jennifer Roberts will see about sharing a product list on the PTO website.

Book Fair presented by Kalpana Lenox – There will be a preview of the fair before Thanksgiving. Purchases will be made the week after Thanksgiving when we return from break. Evening hours on November 28th from 4:30-7:00 during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Want to reach a \$5,000 goal to fund an author visit. Only raised \$2,500 last year. Suggestion was made for more evening hours.

Treasurer's Report presented by Leslie Zimmerman – Current balance is \$4,142.09. Income from several business partners (Oneida Dental Group, OneGroup, AmeriCU). Recovery Room raffle table earned \$137. Waiting on check from Recovery Room restaurant night and Outback Steakhouse restaurant night. Boo Bingo profit was \$287.60. PTO mistakenly received a check for



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profits from the teachers' room Coca-Cola machine. Cindy Smith stated this money is supposed to go to the Sunshine Teachers Fund. PTO will return the money to Cindy for the fund.

Winter Social presented by Colleen Kahler – Possible performance by Bogardus PAC. Idea of high school students to sing Christmas carols. Looking for Santa still (Jenn Dropp may have a volunteer). Theme of Winter Wonderland. Using fake trees for decorations. Asking parents for donations for raffle baskets. Baskets will be created based on school-wide donations. Jennifer Roberts suggested seeking business sponsors who previously supported the PTO. Jennifer Roberts will help with flyers.

Shared Decision Making presented by Penny Houser – Purpose is to have conversations with students, parents, teachers and community about direction of our school. Student reps are 4th and 5th grade students. Students would like after school clubs. Cindy Smith is working on an idea that will be shared at the next meeting. First meeting took place in October and minutes are available on the school site. Jennifer Roberts posted the OCS D Shared Decision Making Plan on the PTO website for information purposes: <https://senecastreetpto.org/2018/10/30/shared-decision-making-at-seneca-street/> Parents and the community are welcome to observe the meetings but may not speak. Any issues are to be presented to Colleen Kahler, the parent representative. **Next meeting is November 26th at 3:00 p.m. in the art room.**

Open Discussion:

- Karen Pitoniak mentioned that some spirit days need to be moved because they are scheduled on days off. Crazy Hair and Inside Out day need to be rescheduled. Dr. Seuss Day is to be on March 1st in celebration of his birthday.
- Cindy Smith asked if PTO scholarships were in budget. Yes, they are on the priority list. PTO officers consider the scholarships "not optional".
- Budget items that must be funded this year are the district-wide artist assembly, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, and high school scholarships
- A vote will be held to fill the vacant President position at the next PTO meeting. Anyone wishing to run must submit their name by November 22nd, as PTO is required to give two weeks' notice before the vote. So far there are two candidates interested.
- PTO has strong parent involvement this year and our volunteer list includes around 35 people.
- PTO is looking for ideas for how to bring parents in and get them involved. We need to remind parents that their voices are important.



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- Kalpana Lennox shared the idea of going paperless for sign-ups and donations in the beginning of the year.
- *Remind* app was brought up. It was well-liked last year. Jennifer Roberts will look into creating a new *Remind* list.
- Stephanie Neff suggested increased transparency with budget and informing families about what we are raising money for when we have fundraisers.
- The PTO wants to send a survey to parents and teachers to connect and find out their preferences – what they like and don't like, what they want to see, what worked in the past, etc.
- Discussion about fundraising and budget. Cindy Smith suggested that the PTO doesn't need to fundraise so much and that their goals could be smaller. Jennifer Roberts said that the "default" for new board members is to continue to fund items that have become traditions at our school. New board members are reluctant to de-fund. The PTO needs input from teachers and parents to determine a new direction and priorities.
- Parents would like to donate to students in need

Motion to Adjourn: Jennifer Roberts at 7:15 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the school library

Minutes compiled by: Grace Nicholas, Secretary and Jennifer Roberts, Communications Chair