

Thoreau PTG Meeting
September 9, 2016
Thoreau School Cafeteria
In attendance: 37 parents, Principal Angel Charles

1. Welcome (Betsy Martel, PTG Co-President)

Introduction of PTG board members: Co-Presidents Betsy Martel and Deb Antonangeli, Vice-President Kathleen Dohoney, Treasurer Megan Caldwell, and Secretary Jennifer Hollywood (not present)

2. 2016-2017 PTG Budget and Final Vote (Megan Caldwell, Treasurer)

Copies of the 2016-2017 budget were distributed for review, discussion, and final vote. It was explained that historically expenses are typically budgeted high and fundraising low.

Discussion topics:

- Suggestion made to think about possible need for future capital expenditures
- Cake walk is not included on the budget because it usually comes out even
- Family fund was defined as a discretionary fund for those in need
- The \$400 teacher stipend is for school supplies. Teachers often spend well above this amount out of pocket. Historically not all of it is used every year.
- The 5th grade activities line item pertains to PTG support for the activities and items distributed for the outgoing 5th graders, including T-shirt, DVD and yearbook.
- The Field Trip line item supports extra field trips a teacher might want to have with their class, i.e. busing fees etc.
- The Mom's Night Out line item is a social event for Thoreau Moms held in the spring. It is not meant to discriminate! For many years, the PTG has wanted to organize a Dad's Night Out or similar event and is seeking a Dad to help coordinate.
- PTG cash is currently in a low-interest bearing savings account. Anyone interested in looking at this and serving as a financial advisor would be welcomed!

Anne Remington motioned to vote on the 2016 budget. Amelia Stubblebine seconded the motion. Budget was approved by a show of hands.

3. Principal Time (Angel Charles, Principal)

Principal Charles greeted everyone, gave positive impressions of the first few days of school, and requested feedback/questions from parents.

Discussion topics:

- Bus route #s are being used instead of bus #s, and this has been confusing. The change was to ensure that the route will be consistent even if a bus with a different number needs to be used (in cases of bus breakdown etc.) Principal Charles has already requested that the Bus Route #s be clearly visible on all the buses, and will continue to do so.
- Back to School Night is Wednesday, Sept. 14th. Principal Charles encouraged parents to visit the specials teachers and staff who will be available to meet with parents in the

cafeteria throughout the evening. She requested suggestions regarding the best means to accommodate parents with multiple children in back-to-back grades for the future.

- Early release Tuesdays are weekly this year. Principal Charles owns six of these for teacher development and training. These are in lieu of full day professional days.
- The combined Kindergarten/1st grade lunch is going well. It is full and well staffed with parent volunteers and staff.
- SAC (School Advisory Committee) has openings for three new members this year. Information about the position and how to apply will be sent out via email and posted to the PTG website. If more than three people express an interest, parents will have an opportunity to vote at Back to School Night, Sep. 14th.

4. Events and Committee Updates

Additional information and volunteer links for most events and committees presented can be found on the Thoreau PTG website (<http://www.thoreauptg.org/>) under “Volunteer Opportunities”

Book Fair: Susan Gillick

The Family Night Book Fair is Friday, October 14th. Class visits will be the following Weds - Friday, October 19-21st. Please consider volunteering (>100 volunteers needed), and/or donating tables, food, and gently used children’s books. Donations will start being collected October 11th. Keep an eye out for details in the Thoreau Announcements, email, and on the PTG website.

Parents at Lunch (PALs): Kimber Lynn Drake

There will be an informational meeting about PALs Friday, October 16th. Volunteers are needed for both inside the cafeteria at lunch time as well as outside during recess.

Service Learning: Jen Ubaldino

This committee is in its second year at Thoreau. Its focus is to support teachers and students involved in service oriented projects throughout the year. This may include helping in the collection of donated items and providing postage.

Thoreauly Green: Anne Remington and Rebecca Woodward

This committee works to foster an appreciation of nature and support sustainable initiatives and practices in the Thoreau community. As part of this mission, they collaborate closely with the Grounds for Learning School Garden Coordinator, Amelia Stubblebine. The first meeting of Thoreauly Green is September 23rd.

Grounds for Learning, School Garden: Amelia Stubblebine

This year the school garden will be open for children to explore during lunch recess on Wednesdays and Fridays. Volunteers are needed during these hours. As an exciting addition this year, monthly Thoreau Garden Work Days have been added to the Thoreau Events Calendar in the Fall and Spring. No sign-up or experience is required. Just show up!

Turkey Trot: Sara Kosicki

This favorite Thoreau School event will be held November 23rd. A volunteer to co-chair this event would be appreciated. Keep an eye out to sign up for the many volunteer opportunities.

Children's Programming: Ali Baty and Mari Alexander

The largest slice of the annual PTG budget goes toward supporting Children's Programming. This vital committee organizes grade specific and school-wide programs in science, art, literature, social studies and other disciplines to complement and supplement what is taught in the classroom. The 2016-2017 schedule is still in development. Stay tuned!

Thoreau Social Committee: Alexa Anderson and Caroline Myler

This committee organizes various opportunities for adults to socialize throughout the year. This year, the first social will be Thursday, November 19th at the Concord Art Association. Information regarding ticket sales will be posted on the Thoreau PTG website, Facebook page, and distributed through the Thoreau Announcements. The Social committee is open to new ideas and events to get moms, dads, parents, and guardians together!

Ice Cream Social: Jennifer Gates

The annual Thoreau School Ice Cream social is Sunday, September 11th, from 2:00 - 4:00. Volunteer opportunities are still available.

Fundraising: Jenifer Perry and Megan Holsinger

The newest addition to Thoreau fundraising is Mabel's Labels. Information regarding this new program was posted in the first distribution of the Thoreau Announcements. Go to <http://www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com> and select "Thoreau School (Concord)" from the list. Twenty percent of each order goes to the PTG. September 23rd marks the beginning of the Yankee Candle fundraiser. Order forms and directions will be sent home with students. Other fundraising opportunities include Thoreau clothing sales and the annual auction.

Library Coordinator: Kristin Haddad

The library is specifically in need of volunteers for the Apollos, Walsh, Dillon, and Gordon classes. Ali Baty, room parent coordinator, offered to distribute this information to these specific classes.

5. Open Positions (Betsy Martel, Co-President)

Communications Chair: This position serves to create clear and consistent messaging through announcements, website, calendar, message board, press/photo releases, Facebook, and any other means of communication to the families at Thoreau and the community. Have fun with it!

Hobby Fair Coordinator: Fourth and/or 5th grade parent volunteers needed coordinate the Annual Hobby Fair held in January or early February. The students love this opportunity to share their hobbies, collections, art or other interests with teachers, family and friends.

BOKS Lead & Assistant Trainers: Health and Wellness Chairs, Adrienne Principe and Alexa Anderson, are looking for a lead trainer to lead the BOKs program and execute the lesson plan twice a week from 8-8:50. He/she should be flexible, be able to think on his/her feet, and remain calm and positive. Three Assistant Trainers are also in need. No experience necessary!

6. Reimbursement Procedure (Megan Caldwell, Treasurer)

A copy of the new, fillable reimbursement form was distributed to all those present and is available on the PTG website. To submit, simply fill out the form, take a picture of your receipts and email to Megan. Hard paper copies and stapled receipts will also be accepted in the PTG mailbox.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 18th, 7pm Thoreau School Library