# Attendees

Courtney Cratty, Jess Manger, Sarah Dailey, April Sears, Debbie Ferguson, Kristen DeLuco, Ross Mulkerin (principal), Paula Backiel (technology teacher), Kyla Gallacher, Kat Copeland, Kim Laster, Kara Herbertz, Pauric O’Callaghan, Martha Curley, Greg Weeks, Charlotte Crowley, Alicia Frigon, Jenn Lemaire

# Agenda

## Introduction and Roll Call

* Courtney Cratty called the meeting to order

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## Principal’s Update

* Ross Mulkerin attended tonight’s meeting
* School pictures went smoothly last week, hearing and vision screenings are going well this week
* The Extreme Science assembly was well received
* Karen Mayotte is putting in for a grant for the school garden; looking for a parent to help with planting and maintaining, especially over the summer months
* MCAS reports are coming out at the end of the month

## Special Guests

* Mrs Backiel introduced Pauric O’Callaghan, Center parent and MathWorks employee
* Mr. O’Callaghan talked about the skills that students need to learn in order to be successful in their careers
* Mrs. Backiel proposed creating a MakerSpace at Center to exercise creativity, learn about electronics hands on, learn to code
* School already has iLoom and OSMO kits
* Hoping to purchase: Meet Dash ($300) (k-5), Bose Build Speaker Cube (Center parents who are Bose employees have offered to purchase at half price) ($150/a piece) (1-5), KIBO 10 kit (4-7 year olds) ($229)
* Mrs. Backiel’s class structure is that the students practice keyboarding for the first 15 minutes and then are able to sign up to use various programs for free choice; Mrs. Backiel would like to have the MakerSpace open with many options for all students to use during this free choice class time
* Jen Morhous suggested brainstorming some smaller items for Mrs. Backiel to put on her holiday wishlist to supplement these larger items
* Mr. O’Callaghan recommended reaching out to local businesses (Bose, MathWorks) to ask about grants
* April Sears suggested using Box Tops funds for the MakerSpace since it benefits every student
* Mrs. Backiel will prepare purchase orders and SPTO will review them

## Officer Updates

Fundraising

* Jen Morhous is planning a gift card fundraiser for Center ad Hale
* Families will buy gift cards at face value, SPTO buys them at a discounted rate which enables the group to collect a rebate
* We will be collecting checks only to prevent losing any money due to credit card/paypal charges
* Two order deadlines (one in November, one in December)
* Order form and information will go home at the end of the month
* Jen Morhous will ask for volunteers to help with gift card pick up tables
* Group talked about writing in the information letter to Center that the proceeds will go towards the MakerSpace and community garden

## Committee Updates

Lip Sync

* Kat Copeland volunteered to chair and Marcy Eckel will co-chair with her
* Set date as February 3, 2018 at Hale
* Committee had a preliminary planning meeting
* Decided to broaden the scope to be a Lip Sync and Talent Show
* Will still have two shows to break up grades/be mindful of show length

Box Tops

* April Sears continues to organize this program
* $805.50 is already cut
* There will be another mailing in March
* Sarah Dailey added information on SPTO website

Staff Appreciation

* SPTO will provide nonperishable snacks for the full day of parent teacher conferences in November for Center and Hale staff
* Official week takes place at the beginning of May

Arts Buffet

* First committee meeting will be on November 7 at 7:30pm at Rosanne Peterson’s home
* Arts Buffet is scheduled for March 3, 2018

## New Business

Project Prep

* Courtney Cratty brought up that is has been hard to get volunteers for the program and that space to use a copier has become an issue
* Ross Mulkerin will look into whether it is still cost prohibitive to use the copier in the k/first wing
* Kim Laster shared that the schedule has been set to be three days per week rather than two days per week as has been in the past
* Ross Mulkerin will review the program with the staff and discuss utilization/barriers

Website/Directory

* Courtney Cratty addressed the school community’s disappointment that there is not going to be a paper directory this year
* There have not been enough volunteers in recent years in order to create the paper directory
* Courtney Cratty shared that there is an app that can be purchased through PaperlessPTO for $2.50/year
* Ross Mulkerin brought up the security/privacy issue
* A family would have to log onto SPTO website in order to purchase the app, as well as get a key code from the SPTO to then purchase the app
* Online directory is not fully up to date due to families not updating their accounts
* Sarah Dailey created a class list file that is currently on the website
* Sarah Dailey and Jen Morhous have been talking with PaperlessPTO about fixing the roll up issues that occurred with the website
* Courtney Cratty called for a vote about whether the SPTO should make the app available – vote will be tabled until PaperlessPTO fixes the above issues

Funding Requests

* Mrs. Cullinane requested funds from the PTO to buy new drawing books
* Kara Herbertz reported that she has some funds left over from SquareOne Art last year
* SquareOne Art fundraiser will take place again this year
* Mr. Keaveny from Hale requested funds for a bus trip for the Model UN to go to a competition in Boston
* Hale Band has a trip that they go on each year and also requests funding from SPTO
* Courtney Cratty highlighted that these requests are not for the student body at large, just a subset of students, and motioned for the SPTO to vote
* These requests have been made yearly; bus prices went up significantly
* Jen Morhous suggested that the money from the gift card fundraiser go to the Hale Student Council so that they can decide how to disseminate the funds
* Courtney Cratty suggested giving both the band and the model UN similar amounts of money to put towards a portion of their cost
* Jen Morhous brought up the importance of these extracurricular groups doing their own fundraising

Vote:

Fully Funding Model UN/Band Bus Costs – zero (0)

Partially Funding – fourteen (14)

No Funding – one (1)

Dollars for Scholars

* Nashoba Regional High School program
* In the past Hale has donated $500 for a female student and $500 for a male student
* Courtney Cratty shared her concern that the SPTO provides this money each year and the group does not have any say in who gets the money and it cannot be accessed by students who attend a different high school (ie Minuteman)
* Other schools (ie, Lancaster) have a scholarship process where former students apply and the PTO decides who wins the award

Vote:

Give $1000 to Nashoba Dollars for Scholars – 0

No - 15

## Announcements

Halloween Dance

* Center Halloween Dance will be on October 27 from 3pm-5pm at Hale
* Jenn Lemaire says that she is still is need of many volunteers for the event
* There will be a few small crafts and a separate quiet area for kids who need a break
* Collecting monetary donations for the Nurse’s Fund (money to buy clothes for students who need to change their clothing during the school day)

Next Meeting Monday November 13 at 9:30am at Hale Conference Room

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