

Alcott Parent Teacher Group Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2017

Present: Heidi Webster, Twito, Holly Legault, Meghan Clinard, Carrie Lamont, Claire O'Brien, Kate Ramirez,

School Staff Liaison: John Peachey

OPENING AND INTRODUCTION: Heidi Webster

APPROVE DECEMBER MINUTES: Minutes approved

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE:

- Heidi discussed the DESE Commendation for high achievement and high progress on the 2016 PARCC. Alcott is one of only 49 schools in Massachusetts to achieve this high honor this year. On February 1st there will be an event at the State House to honor these schools. Members of Alcott teaching staff, Diana Rigby and Sharon plan on attending for Alcott along with the other schools in the state. PTG intends to have a celebration for Sharon and other Alcott teachers in April.
- MCAS 2.0 next state test, all computer. Testing will be on laptops in classroom this year. Last year was in lab. This is much better and will take less time.

MATH NIGHT:

Holly - All three elementary schools participate. This year is Spy theme. Teams met before holiday break. Other schools picked dates and kits not ready before March. All schools use the kits. We can pick a date but has to be in March after 17th. Other schools do Friday, best to not do same week as another school so games can be organized and put together for next school. Next meeting for schools is next Thursday. Holly really needs a partner and will put out note for volunteer on website and out in next Thursday Owl. Book gym instead of cafeteria. Leaning towards March 24th for us, otherwise it will be 31st. Budget is \$200.00. \$ needed for prizes (invisible pens). Sandwich board sign before to promote.

READ-A-THON:

Best Book, not Scholastic this year. Lisa Shaw confirmed dates for Feb 27th to March 3rd. Early this year. We will still have Read-a-Thon family night. Best Book has better books, less other stuff, not quite as much money as Scholastic back to Alcott. Also suggest Friday possible for Read-a-Thon Family Night which usually happens on a Thursday.

WORKSHOPS:

Claire - Before School sports, math clubs, festival orchestra Friday mornings (NEW), hands on electronics (NEW), Bollywood dance (NEW), STEM Lego, karate. Most are 6 weeks. Kate has not paid very many invoices for Fall workshops and would like to wrap that up. Ask Kerry O if we can do STEM Lego in library. Workshops begin January 30th. Send out workshop sheet any time. It is ready to go once library use can be approved. Can put in backpacks this week. Announcement in next Thursday Owl.

Alcott Parent Teacher Group Monthly Meeting Minutes

Interest in offering a Journalism workshop. Layout and print paper for school. Frisbee golf would be a fun workshop with teachers for Spring. Filmmaking via Umbrella Arts as a workshop with a teacher. Coding class workshop with Mr. Peachy in the Spring.

Would be helpful for parents to provide a one sheet with all different workshops/descriptions listed, days, times, providers, contact info, etc. Include those offered through other providers (not PTG sponsored), including Mr. Gs before school sports (Concord Rec), before school language (Concord Carlisle District), to streamline.

GEOGRAPHY QUEST:

Claire - Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Completed. 500 copies will be delivered to Alcott on Friday. Early this year. Have it end at the same time, using February break. Send out to mailboxes on January 26th and collect on March 3rd. Looks like she has a volunteer. Prize is carabiner. Budget for prizes is \$250.00

METCO:

Carrie Lamont - Bowling next Tuesday. Not as many matchups this year. Too much other good stuff happening on Tuesdays after school at Alcott for both METCO and other students as well as more conflicts due to fact every Tuesday is early release. Tuesday late bus only drops at Franklin Park Zoo. Best to have more than one buddy. Hope to get diversity council meetings back up and running. Try to help have Boston families form community together . . . Boston families all spread apart unlike Concord families all in one city. Have grade level reps communicate with teachers to see how buddy match ups are going so far this year. Budget ok for bowling . . . perhaps try to raise money for end of year celebration in Boston. Budget looks good now, raised from last year as Alcott hosts more METCO students/events.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

Claire - What is coming that needs help . . .
January 24th is Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Feb 17th, in the morning, is crossing guard, bus driver appreciation breakfast
Book Fair

Mr. Peachy mentioned the front office would like to talk to parents about a different way to let them know when a student is sick, out from school or late. Middle schools and high school use a form online. Would that be helpful to parents and front office? We think, YES, the form is a great idea!!

Monster Mash meeting in the Spring to pick date and talk with fire department about safety, etc. Get the word out to our community about having the event earlier in the day, mostly in daylight. More outdoor activities to avoid over capacity in certain area/rooms and hallways. Make sure parking rules are followed. Start talking about it in March. Hold a meeting with Heidi and Cheryl to get a head start and figure out all the new details, invite fire chief. Collect info to figure out the reality of the event going forward. Monster Mash will look very different next year. Perhaps hold it from 4-6:30?

Alcott Parent Teacher Group Monthly Meeting Minutes

What are some new ideas/ways to get out info to community about PTG meetings. Getting a more diverse bunch of parents to the meetings for ideas and feedback. How get them here? Perhaps do a room parent email maybe once a month to let people know what the hot topics will be. Try to keep meetings to one hour only. Draw up a Myth vs. Facts blurb on website or something . . .yes, bring kids . . .? Q & A at each meeting. Parents send in questions. Allow parents to conference into the meeting. Have a suggestion box in office and/or online. Make it anonymous. break up meeting, 15 minutes of education, 15 of questions from parents. Discuss testing . . .first meeting in September...Try to get people excited about getting involved if interested, not necessarily to take a job, but be informed as a community and provide feedback. Get more diverse group of people and hear all the different thoughts of these parents.

New high school time is going to be 8am start (to 2:40?)

Longer lunch time, 20" is not enough.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 1st at 9:30 am in office conference room.

