

**Orange Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes - March 12th, 2025**  
**\*In Person and Zoom\***

All welcomed by President Karen at 6:05pm. Reviewed emergency exits.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Secretary's report for January was posted on our Facebook page and hard copies are available at the meeting. Minutes were reviewed and accepted. Motion passed.

1st Brigitte Richards, 2nd Amber Dupell

The Treasurer's report was posted on our Facebook page, reviewed and accepted. Motion passed. 1st Brigitte Richards, 2nd Jonathon Eaton

Checking Account -\$15,148.32

PayPal Account - \$3,999.81

Savings Account - \$14,505.94

**Total PTO Funds = \$33,654.07**

**Energy Commission of Orange:** Pat Larson, of the Energy Commission of Orange spoke, after having met with Karen, regarding what's happening with Fisher Hill. The Town of Orange received two generous grants. Solar panels will be put on the roof of the Fisher Hill school; this has been delayed due to snow. When they arrive, the panels hope to provide 50% of the energy for the school - this is a pilot project for National Grid. There will also be an Outdoor Classroom built where Dexter Park was. This will house 30 elementary students. A contract has been signed by a local contractor from New Salem; that will start to go up in the Spring. Some requirements in the grant are for curriculum, which will be submitted. The committee has talked to seniors and families; during February vacation, 22 people attended an

event on accessible trails where Bonnie Benjamin did an art project and participants saw a Beaver house, etc. The next BIG COMMUNITY EVENT will be on Earth Day at Fisher Hill - Tuesday, April 22nd from 1-3pm: "Celebrate the Sun: An Afternoon of Family-friendly Events. Activities like botanical sun prints, plant a seed to take home, wetland creatures and more will be available. Come to this activity and ask questions!

### **FISHER HILL SCHOOL NEWS:**

- No school on Friday, March 21st due to a Teacher PD day
- After school program has been extended for Winter session and will end 3/27
- Spring session after school program will be March 31st. Packets will be handed out soon; first to students who've attended before, then to new students the following week.
- D.A.R.E. program has begun with our 6th graders. A huge thank you to Officer Softic and Mrs. Holmes, a great team who have been committed to bringing this program to OES year after year.
- Kindergarten Artist in Residence dance program is in full swing, week 3. They love it!
- GLO Literacy Night was a great success – 102 certificates were handed out to students and books bought. Teachers volunteered to help and brought forth great ideas for helping for next time, like bringing the GLO hunt to more spaces in the school. Thank you to the teachers, the parents, the twelve Grade 6 Ambassadors, Key Club members - it was a real community event - thank you everybody!
- With the recent uptick of colds and illnesses, classrooms could use.... Tissues, paper towels, sanitizers, and/or disinfecting wipes - thanks!
- Art field trips coming up:
  - \*Kindergarten Field Trip to the Very Hungry Caterpillar - March 17th

- \*3rd Grade to Storow Town Village - March 19th
- \*1st Grade to Eric Carle Museum - March 26th
- \*2nd Grade to Springfield Museum/Dr.Seuss Museum - April 9th
- \*4th,5th,6th grade trips are in May and June

## **FUNDS REQUESTS:**

Request for \$1,805 – Animal Adventures to come to Fisher Hill – Kindergarten. Motion passed.

1st Leeanne Lovell, 2nd Amber Dupell

Request for \$690, \$8/person includes food for animals at Lupa Zoo - Kindergarten. Motion passed.

1st Leeanne Lovell, 2nd Amber Dupell

Request for preemptive \$2,500, 3rd Grade trip to Quabbin Reservoir/Winsor Dam. Motion passed.

1st Jonathon Eaton, 2nd Amber Dupell

Request for \$3,224; approved the allocated \$2,500. 5th Grade trip to Fort Number 4 in NH. Motion passed.

1st Jonathon Eaton, 2nd Amber Dupell

Spring Book fair sold \$7,684.27, which turns into \$3,170 raised in Scholastic Dollars. This means we have put 950 books in the hands of our students! The GLO Book sales will go into the Book Vending Machine and the November Book Fair funds will go to teachers classroom libraries. An ongoing conversation will continue to make sure teachers classrooms and the book vending machine are both covered.

Request for \$4,428.81 - Spring Book Fair payment. Motion passed.

1st Natasha Beauchemin, 2nd Amber Dupell

Book Vending Machine – given 577 books to our students; we have 512 students at the school; those that are earning a chance to use it are demonstrating what it means to be role models; they're is a lot of student buy in to it; Student of the Month is also getting an Otterific book.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The MCM fundraiser began this past Monday and will go from March 10-24, with drive through delivery on April 16th (the Wednesday before Easter).  
Going on NOW!

The Emerald Ball is this Friday – a student favorite! A silly, wacky, FUN night with their friends. When you turn in your form, you get a green pass to gain entry with name and teacher. Students will receive these on Friday. Still free to attend; only cost is if you want food.

Voting by ballots for fundraisers via google forms (paper copies would still be available if people request that). We want to hear your voice. Our May meeting is very important for fundraisers for 2025-2026, and at least 2 board seats to fill. The town library can help with computers and how-to fill out google forms.

Motion made and seconded to open voting to place all of the fundraising presentations with a 10-day voting window, for families via Google Form. In-person voting will also be allowed at our May 14th meeting. Motion passed.

1st Stephanie Lupien, 2nd Amber Dupell

Motion made and seconded for elections open to voting 10-day window prior to May 14th meeting for families via Google Form. In-person voting will also be allowed at our May 14th meeting. Motion passed.

1st LEEANNE LOVELL, 2nd AMBER DUPELL

Motion made and seconded for raising the budget allocated for field trip budget funding from \$21,500 to \$24,500. Yearly budget would be raised from \$25,500 from \$28,500. Motion passed.

1st NATASHA BEAUCHEMIN, 2nd JONATHON EATON

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and voted by all at 7:18pm.

1st NATASHA BEAUCHEMIN, 2nd AMBER DUPELL

*Our next meeting is May 14th at 6pm in the Family Resources area.*

*Thank you for your support -  
we hope to see you then!*