

- I. Motion to approve meeting minutes made and approved.
- II. Updates from PTO Co-Presidents.
 - a. UoD events are on-going and there remains a constant need for volunteers/support.
 - i. 7/10th of volunteers have signed up for the unit on autism unit
 - ii. 5/10 needed for chronic medical conditions (grade 4)
 - b. Sales of Cabot Goods have lullied
 - i. May be a “pop-up” event
 - ii. Idea of winter-goods having appeal: flannel PJs, scarves, mittens; perhaps also a Cabot bear keychain or other stuffy that kids might hang on their backpacks, etc.
 - iii. Idea of a winter-wear for sale at winter events (K-2 CASP show, event re: CASP ski club, others) Perhaps at a snow day group event.
 - iv. Another goods sale opportunity could be publishing parties.
 - c. Room parent updates
 - i. Most folks have heard from room parents re: gifting and \$
 - ii. STRIDE teachers aren’t covered by room parent activities and asks (b/c their kids are in other home rooms). Marie Callahan may help with this. *Dee is reaching out to her to clarify plans for this holiday season.*
 - iii. Note for the future: Marie does a range of activities for teachers/teacher appreciation (lunches, gifts, etc.) She has a budget-line for this (“acknowledgements.”) Also, moving forward, Marie would like help with these activities. Perhaps, moving forward, each grade could be responsible for one specialist. There’s not a need to fundraise separately, the work is more about logistics. *Any changes in practice are more likely to work for the end of year than for mid-year.*
 - d. Publishing parties/celebrations are happening.
 - i. No food is allowed.
 - ii. Grab-bags of goodies (pencils, etc.) are allowed to make the event more fun (esp. since food is not allowed). Parents can bring in various grab-bag items. *If parents are interested, they should check with teachers first to ensure that teachers want this.*
 - e. Lost and found is getting full.
 - i. We likely will clear it out before the holiday break. Nicky suggests that L&F goods are made visible – wheel them out to CASP, make them visible at drop-off or pick-up. 5th graders could help with this – CASP kids, safeties, etc.
 - ii. Things that are in good shape may go to Circle of Hope.
 - iii. Cabot, Day and NNHS are also donating to Cradles to Crayons.
 1. Challenge = both Circle of Hope and Cradles to Crayons prefer newer items.
 - f. Review of recent PTO events
 - i. Book fair. We had 17 racks of books (5 more than last year). There were many used book donations. Teachers are going through these now; extras will be stored for 2020. We made \$1,394. \$370 of this came from the raffle (which is the exact same amount that was raised last year). Made \$598 from used books and \$426 from new books. (We

get 11% of the profit off the new ones.) Book signing and readings were well-received, as was the ‘campfire’ event. 5th graders will profit about \$220 from events at the fair.

1. Idea - Next year, sell Cabot goods at this event. Consider other crafts.
- ii. Wrapping at Newtonville Books
 1. There are still sign-up spots available (about ½ of available spots remain). Big need = nights and weekends.
 2. Cut off sign ups at 12/20 (vs. 12/28).
 3. Maybe shorter sign-ups and/or sign-ups that don't end at 3.
 4. Might be worthwhile to reach out to Day, NNHS to get teen and tween volunteers
- g. Treasurer's Report (see handout)
- i. *For Campaign for Cabot*: \$2,600 raised, \$1,200 through PayPal
 - ii. See notes above re: book fair
 - iii. Fun run \$ is not showing in budget (approx. \$21K)
- h. Giving Tuesday ask on Facebook didn't quite work for this year (it takes 2-3 weeks to process). We will be set for next year, but it didn't work due to timing.
- i. There has been some confusion about multiple asks for \$: dues, Campaign for Cabot, fun run, etc.
- i. Some folks feel that they've given already through dues and are confused by the multiple asks.
 - ii. Generally, there's a perception that it's nicer to ask for Campaign for Cabot vs. be "required" or strongly encouraged to pay dues. (Feels more welcoming to all not to have dues.)
- j. Grade-level report outs/committee feedback.
- i. Kindergarten night out is tonight. Screening events for 2020 K-ers is in early March., first-grade rep will facilitate.
 - ii. 5th Grade – much effort to plan/coordinate activities for graduation. We're in the planning stages, hope = for more momentum in the spring.
 1. Tee-shirts
 2. Community service activity
 3. Yearbook
 4. Various fundraising and social events (Dads' nights; Moms' nights). Fundraising is stressful, next year hope to reduce this stress for the next class.
 - iii. FORJ
 1. Affinity group meeting was attended by the four folks who organized it. Attendance has been minimal and not too many have responded to the survey. There were suggestions for affinity groups for: South Asians, non- Newton residents, immigrants. Eric is thinking about how to facilitate this in the building among different groups of students, starting with students of color. Eric is working with the METCO lead to expand the conversation beyond METCO kids. The district FORJ-lead is running related efforts.
 2. Family dance is slated for Jan. 26, 2020, at Cabot at 4PM. A DJ is booked.
 3. Around the World display is up and running; kids seem engaged.
 - a. There's a calendar for this (different months with different families) and work to ensure that parents are engaged, communications about this are

shared with families. Families who provide info might like to share about themselves/work/countries in the newsletter.

- b. One family shared their experience with all classrooms (5 mins/class, which took significant time from the family). Moving forward, could video this and show it to classes (to save parents' time)
- c. May be efforts to coordinate with Library, pull related books
- d. Also a good idea to have a globe or map showing where the country fits
- e. Goal = to make this more sharable with folks outside of the building.

iv. Cabot 90th Celebration

1. There may be an event in March or June to commemorate this.

v. Updates from Eric

1. We're learning about which areas of the walk/school, etc. are icy. It's particularly icy right at the bus drop-off area. Eric is working with the Dept. of Parks and Rec to ID issues and get them fixed early.
2. Traffic and blue zones in the winter?
 - a. Adding a crossing guard at Cabot and Harvard. Doing this takes some negotiations, but negotiations are underway. There will be a temporary crossing guard at that location in the near term.
 - b. Blue Zones are now traveled a bit more extensively (due to poor weather). Eric and others are still determining how well these are working.
 - c. People are still driving in the wrong direction in parking lot.
 - d. Working on courageous conversations on race with teachers. Eric will be sharing out about videos that staff are watching.
 - e. Contractors are still in the building for various reasons. (Issues with pavement, furniture, pipes in and near the gym, misc.)

vi. Upcoming events

1. CASP K-2 musical
2. Holiday gift drive - sign up genius for gifts for the Second Step due early next week
3. Cradles to Crayons (also collecting at Day and NNHS and City Hall)
4. Next general PTO meeting will be 1/13/20 in at 7:30 PM in the Cafetorium.
 - a. PTO Co-Pres will provide an update.
 - b. Parent will give a talk on cognitive behavioral therapy. (This may draw other parents.)
5. Next exec team meeting 1/9 (definitely at Ginny's house)