

# Illing Middle School PTSA Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2013

**Meeting called to order by:** Sara Cleveland, President at 7:04 pm

**Attendees:** Sara Cleveland, Mary Keenan Klotzer, Wilma Beaulieu, Lisa Mazzoni, Tori Basso, Andy Kidd, Jay Carangelo, Ingrid Carangelo, Sherri Logue, Mimi Ford, Gina Clark, Amanda Lythgoe, David Lee, Jill Hartnett, Andrea Rowe, Jack Crockwell, Carol Nelson, Cathy Mazzotta, Felicina Petito, Sara O'Brien, Diane Maloney, Barbara Menasian, Mary Phillip, David Welch, David Lee

## **Introduction of the 2013/14 PTSA Board:**

Presenter: Sara Cleveland

- The current PTSA Board consists of Sara Cleveland, President; Jack Crockwell, Vice-President and Mary Keenan Klotzer, Secretary. The Board is looking for a Treasurer and is seeking a volunteer.

## **Secretary's Report**

Presenter: Mary Klotzer

- PTSA membership is going well, with 76 members, including 23 teachers/staff and 8 student members. Over the past 2 years Bennet Academy won several state PTSA membership awards, and now those students and families are at Illing. Let's keep the membership momentum and awards going! Grandparents, aunts, uncles are welcome to join. Dads are especially welcome!

## **Treasurer's Report**

Presenter: Sara Cleveland

- We need a treasurer. Please contact the PTSA ([IllingMiddleSchoolPTSA@gmail.com](mailto:IllingMiddleSchoolPTSA@gmail.com)) if you are interested or have questions. Current balance of the Illing PTSA bank account is \$513.05. The 2013/14 Proposed budget was reviewed. Fundraisers will include Box Tops for Education all year, Mixed Bags in the Fall and Butter Braids in the Spring. We are open to suggestions for fundraising. We will also run a "no-nonsense" fundraiser in which parents can simply donate any amount, rather than purchasing items.

## **Student Council Report**

Presenter: Jessy Morrison

- There will be a Parent Meeting re: the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, DC trip on September 18 at 7 pm. There will be a can and bottle drive fundraiser for the DC trip on October 19 at Illing.

## **Principal's Report**

Presenter: David Welch

- Mr. Welch discussed that this is his second year at Illing, and he and staff are continuing their work in this new era in strengthening the structures of the school. He encouraged students and parents to look at the clubs and activities listed on the school's website, as getting students involved helps them get connected to school. The School Improvement Plan is also on the website (<http://illingschool.townofmanchester.org/documents/SchoolImprovementPlan.pdf>) and is the plan for improvement for next 6-7 years in the areas of numeracy, literacy and the school climate. There are new teacher evaluations from the State of CT Dept of Education that is all encompassing and is putting stress on the teachers and staff. He distributed a hand-out on the "9 C's" ([http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/uploaded/Illing/About\\_Us\\_Page/Nine\\_Cs.pdf](http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/uploaded/Illing/About_Us_Page/Nine_Cs.pdf)).

Mr. Welch discussed the new phone and electronic methods of communicating with parents including School Messenger, the Home Access Center, Info-Snap. He also highlighted 3 special parent events:

- Donuts for Dads in December with Dave: December 13, 2013, 7:15 am
- Muffins for Mom on a Monday in May: May 12, 2014, 7:15 am
- March Madness Family Fun Night: March 26, 2014, 7 pm, Kelley Gym
- Mr. Welch concluded by stressing the kids still want parents involved during this transition age. They still need parental support and parental involvement is important.

### **President's Report**

Presenter: Sara Cleveland

- There will be a fall fundraiser in late October in which we will be selling Mixed Bag items, which are adorable reuseable bags and eco-friendly products. We also will be selling Illing spirit wear. We are looking for a committee to work with Barbara Menasian on developing spirit wear designs. PTSA information will be sent home on light green paper. However most information will be on the website or e-mailed to PTSA members.

### **New Business: Author Visit**

Presenter: Mr. Lee

- Mr. Lee discussed that Michaela MacColl, the author of *Nobody's Secret*, will be visiting our school on November 21<sup>st</sup>. She will give a presentation on her book *Nobody's Secret*, and will be part of Illing Night at Barnes & Noble. Mr. Lee also asked about a PTSA contribution in order to host the author Allan Wolf, who wrote *The Watch That Ends the Night*, as well as poetry and verse novels. He is a phenomenal speaker and performance artist. Mr. Wolf will give 3-4 large group presentations, a meet the author lunch and a workshop with the Poetry Club. Mr. Lee hopes to also have a Barnes & Noble "open mike night" during which students can perform their poetry.

### **New Business: Box Tops for Education**

Presenter: Mary Keenan Klotzer

- Earn money for Illing Middle School by clipping Box Tops. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade homerooms that collect the most Box Tops will receive a pizza party in November and May. Please write the name of your student's homeroom teacher in or on the baggie or envelope in which you send your Box Tops. Sign up at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> for contests and coupons.
- **Recommendations/Suggestions:** PTSA members suggested having dine out fundraiser nights that are quick and offer the option of dessert only, such as at Sweet Frog or Dairy Queen.

Next PTSA meeting will be on October 9, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Keenan Klotzer  
PTSA Secretary