Item Owner

**Abington Heights Middle School PTA Minutes**

February 12, 2018

**In attendance**

Aimee McGuinness Jennifer Bachan-Breiten Melinda Dickman

Natalie Studebaker Lorie Schneider Jennifer Selvenis

Gail Smerildi Julia Papeleas Lori Kareha

Kathi Casper Kami Orbin Sarah Dawgert

Joe Beth Scialpi Karen Cahn

The meeting was called to order and parents were welcomed by Mindy Dickman at 7pm

**Board Reports**

A**.** Recording Secretary **–** Aimee McGuinness

Meeting Minutes were presented Jenn Bachan-Breiten made a motion to accept meeting minutes. seconded the motion.

B. Corresponding Secretary – Jennifer Bachan-Breiten

We are working on a website – AHMSPTA. It will contain a calendar of events and a description of the different fundraisers along with the important forms. We will try to keep this up to date and hope to have it up and running within the next couple of weeks. Any suggestions are welcome. If anyone who would like updates and has not been receiving them, please let Jennifer Bachan-Breiten know.

C. Treasurer – Jennifer Selvenis

Beginning balance was $17,114.44. The ending balance was $28,690.77.

**Mrs. Stacey Bamford – Kindness Initiative**

Stacey began with a thank you to the PTA for all the support. She introduced the trackable kindness challenge that will begin mid-March. At the middle school there are many challenges students face. The school does a great job opening discussions about bullying, but they wanted to address the topic from a different perspective to help students be more proactive in pursuing kindness and being empathetic. There are cards with unique numbers that students can request. The student can then log their card into the website. When the students practice kindness, they can then pass on their card, which will hopefully begin a chain reaction of kind acts which can be tracked.

**Mrs. Anne Armezzanni – Open the Dialogue**

Anne came to invite everyone to a four part program about the drug abuse epdemic. Their mission is to facilitate a dialogue among caretakers with children in grades 5-12 and beyond by presenting a series of drug awareness programs. The four programs will be held on Thursday-March 8, Thursday-March 29, Thursday-April 19, and Thursday-May 10. For more information or to purchase tickets, email Anne Armezzani at gatheringplaceCS@gmail.com

**Principal’s Report - Mr. Wyandt**

Thank you to the PTA for all they do, and to Mrs. Bamford for introducing the kindness initiative. Second quarter ended Friday, February 9, and report cards should be coming home this Friday, February 16. 5th grade band concert is February 15th. There is a fun night on February 23rd for 7th and 8th grade students. This is in place of the usual 7th and 8th grade dance.

**Dr. Michael Mahon – Discussion on district policies**

Dr. Mahon went into detailed explanation about the thought process and reasoning behind the decision to eliminate from the school day, any activities intended to raise funds directly from the students. There was some discussion about this decision.

Dr. Mahon also discussed the lack of librarians in the district. When the two librarians that were employed at the elementary level left, the district began discussion about changing things and choosing not to have librarians. Instead, they employed teachers to teach computer coding in the elementary schools to begin education early in order to make this education accessible to all students early on. The district also has adjusted their budget to allow more funds to be allocated to books.

Dr. Mahon also addressed the school store. There are students that need practice with life skills, and this is the central goal of the school store to facilitate learning key life skills.

There is a meeting on Wednesday, February 21, to discuss details regarding our school calendar pertaining to snow days and strike length information.

**Committee Reports**

1. Blue & White Gala – Natalie

We sold 110 tickets, which is down from last year. Everyone had a great time. The total profit was about $2000. This is down from about $7,000 from last year.

1. Family Fun Night -

March 23rd is the date of the event. We will have bounce houses, games, and photo booth. Please let us know any suggestions.

1. Spring Book Fair

This will be BOGO

1. Fundraising/8th Grade

Hershey Park ticket fundraiser is underway. Deadline is March 19.

1. Staff Appreciation

Date set for Tuesday - 5/8 – we will do a lunch for all the staff.

**Upcoming Dates**

1. Hershey Park Ticket Sale – orders due by 3/19
2. Spring Apparel Sale – orders due by 3/23
3. Kalahari Ticket Sale – orders due by 3/23
4. Family Fun Night – 3/23
5. Spring Book Fair – 3/19 to 3/23; shopping times to be announced
6. Movie Night – Friday - 4/13
7. Staff Appreciation – 5/8
8. STEAM Fair – 5/10

This date will most likely be moved because of the conflict with the 8th grade field trip

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment** **– Mindy Dickman**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

**Upcoming Meeting -** March 12 – 7pm