

March
OPR PAC MEETING
Thursday, March 4, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING

7pm: Meeting

- Meeting minutes from February 2021 meeting accepted via unanimous vote. Accept February meeting minutes – accepted.
- Treasurer's Report: some direct donations and revenue from Mables Lables, but otherwise not much for finances.

Current School Business – Mr. Barner

- School news - on the Cultural Arts front we received excellent feedback for the Grade 3 Discovery Museum virtual field trip. The museum sent materials ahead of time and conducted virtual sessions. We have booked similar field trips for grades 1, 2 and 5 – all taking place through the month of March. We are trying to incorporate fully remote students as well. All materials will be dropped off at school to be distributed. The 4th grade has booked a program for Southwick Zoo which will take place over the next couple of weeks.
- The school looks very different these days – very new – a big thank you for the monitors, we have been running trivia, showing slides, Read Across America, sharing screens, demonstrating work that has been done around the school, etc.

PAC Business:

Recap of activity – Meredith McCabe:

- Restaurant Night – thank you Ana Barros and thank you to the PAC for the monitor donations. Also wanted to cover a couple of requests for donations from groups in the town:

BJ Burke, President of **Walpole Scholarship Foundation** and Digital Learning Coach at Johnson Middle School.

- Walpole Scholarship Foundation was established in 1983 by head the head Guidance Counselor and other teachers at Walpole High School to pay for the education of some of its students. Its former and current Boards of Trustees have kept it going – raising money and turning back over \$4.2M in scholarships over the years. On average the Board of Trustees awards over \$200K per year to any Walpole resident who attends public or private high school or college. Last year the Board of Trustees awarded 105 student scholarships: 59 high school students and 47 college students. The average award was \$1500. Applications for the scholarships open in December and close February 1st. Students apply online and local community members act as readers to rank the applications. Superintendent Gough is a former recipient of the program.

Lori Bratsis Whelan and ***Ana Barros*** – **Multicultural Book Initiative**

- The program has grown very quickly, we are excited to do a book fair. There are not as many books available that focus on people of color, disabilities, etc. so we want to make sure people are educated disabilities, wanted to make sure people are fully educated and that these groups are not only represented but that they see themselves in literature. Ana has a lot of experience with PAC

PAC and fundraising so she decided she would get involved and help lend her expertise to the initiative. As an example, *Population One*, is written by a 19-year-old who is navigating the world, trying to find their place in it. These books are a great way to get more books into the library and demonstrate there is beauty in every culture.

PAC voted to make a \$750 donation in total. A one-time \$500 donation to Walpole Scholarship Foundation and a \$250 donation to the Multicultural Book Initiative with a commitment to engaging in future fundraising efforts.

- Michael Dornisch is working toward making the 2021 OPR Talent Show a reality. He is working with Walpole Media and the High School to deliver a virtual program and is targeting May for the actual performance, May 12th, which is a half day. Stay tuned about the half day situation and the availability of the high school – we are not sure if it is a cleaning day.
- The Crisp Restaurant Night will have a flier that will be sent out with the backpacks. We do not get credit for the sale if the flier is not presented so please look for it in the back packs.
- Any other questions? No. Meeting adjourned.
- Next Meeting: April 8, 2021, 7:00PM