

The APFA (Applewild Parents and Families Association) meeting minutes

Date: 9/14/23

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Hybrid – both Zoom and in person at Applewild School, Fitchburg campus

Attendance/Introductions:

Leadership committee -

Toby Bartlett, President (on Zoom)

Giulia King, Vice President (in person)

Ani Jigarjian, Volunteer Coordinator (on Zoom)

Maria Millikin, Secretary (in person)

Michelle Mercier (not present)

We had 34 parties on Zoom and 4 families in person, along with Leo Hiertz, Director of Advancement and APFA Liaison, who took the lead on the meeting with slides for everyone to view.

This is our Introductory meeting to kick off the year, and we are so happy with the turn out. Thanks to all for showing up! We're very excited.

Our Theme this year is **TOGETHER.**

The goals and initiatives of the APFA are as follows:

1. Teacher Appreciation
2. Room Parent Program
3. Bringing events & projects to the community
4. Collaborate with the Admissions Office to attract and retain new students & families
5. Support the Annual Fund – increase percentage of parent participation

Amy Jolly, Head of School, was present and spoke about how happy she was to see so many people and interest from parents this year. Amy and Leo collectively spoke to the importance of the Annual Fund and announced that we're launching a Capital Campaign. Exciting things such as a new playground are in the works, and we call on everyone to get involved to help.

Ani Jigarjian, Volunteer Coordinator will be organizing room parents soon – keep an eye out for that

Other items/events:

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10th this year

Harvest Fair is on October 14th

Bingo Night planned for November 8th at 6pm

We will hold a Parent Mixer – date and details TBD

Grandparents and special guests day is on May 17th this year

We want everyone's ideas to BUILD COMMUNITY and STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS **TOGETHER**

Future dates to keep in mind:

First meeting – November 2nd

Second meeting – January 18th

Third meeting – March 17th

Fourth meeting – May 23rd

Our new Director of Admissions, Greg Miller, was present and spoke to the following:

- He wants parents to be present in the Admissions office and on campus to be involved and act as Parent Ambassadors. They will be present at Open Houses and Revisit Days, both virtual and in person.
- He wants parents to Share and Comment and help promote our community both online through social media outlets and in person through word of mouth.
- Please see Greg, Leo, Amy or any of the APFA leadership if you are interested!

Director of Advancement, Leo Hiertz, spoke about the first Phone-a-thon on Giving Tuesday (11/28) and we hope to have lots of participation. His goal this year is to reach 100% parent participation!

APFA President, Toby Bartlett, ended by encouraging good communication this year as we work together and asked that parents please get involved. We'll be distributing a survey to get ideas from parents, so keep an eye out for that.

We had conversation on the Zoom chat about grant work and businesses (National Grid in particular) that want to work with our parent association and AW as a whole to achieve some of our dreams of improving our school. This is exciting stuff. Thank you all.

Ideas/questions: APFA@applewild.org

Adjournment time 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted by

Maria Millikin, Secretary