

PTO Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 16, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:04 p.m.

**Attendance:** Carol Aguilar, Staci Axelrod, Cara Bauer, Laura Beckmann, Melissa Bredbenner, Cathy Brown, Dawn Carey, Nell Colozza, Jodi Condra, David Fingerhut, Kelly Fresr, Abby Goldberg, Liane and Michael Green, Christy Groner, Gina Haralson, Steve Kadyk, Rhonda LaChance, Sonya Land, Kimberly Lederman, Sandy Lohss, Amy Lowrey, Kay Lundry, Dr. Carrie Luttrell, Neme Maeljara, Diane Mapes, Sachu Nigam, Qiu Ohu, Namita Paranjothi, Patty Raimondu, Carrie Roberts, Mary Robinson, and Jenni Stecher.

**Welcome All:** Sandy Lohss welcomed everyone and read the following expectation of all PTO meetings.

The expectation of all PTO meetings is for them to last for approximately one hour. According to the published bylaws, one purpose of our meetings is to “receive brief summary reports from all active committees.” Only PTO business will be discussed at our meetings. Any personal or school district related issues should be discussed outside of the meeting with the appropriate school administration at another time. One person at a time should speak so we may all hear each other, and the Recording Secretary is able to provide us with clear and concise minutes of each meeting. The appointed meeting facilitator reserves the right to move the meeting forward, which means possibly limiting the time someone has to present their information.

She introduced the 2012-2013 PTO Executive Board: Sandy Lohss, President; Jenni Stecher, Vice President; Christy Groner, Treasurer; Kay Lundry, Assistant Treasurer; Nell Colozza, Corresponding Secretary; Sonya Land, Recording Secretary; and Cara Bauer, Past President.

**May Meeting Minutes Approval:** Approved first by Cara Bauer and seconded by Christy Groner.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

- Back to School Picnic: The picnic will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, from 6 to 8 p.m. Be sure to bring a picnic dinner and blanket and participate in the games sponsored by the Boy Scouts. The ice cream truck will also be present.
- Pre-Sold School Supplies: Christy Groner reported that 55 people ordered the pre-sold supplies, and there were no difficulties with the orders. PTO plans on doing it again next year.
- BooHoo Breakfast: There were lots of new faces, and this was the largest turnout from the past two years.

**President’s Report:**

- Bylaw Approval: Approved first by Jenni Stecher and seconded by Nell Colozza.
- Current Standing of All Committees: Sandy distributed a list of volunteers that she currently has for all of the committees as well as a sign-up sheet of brief summaries of each committee. She asked for more people to step forward to organize or volunteer for any committee since these are what really makes the different activities throughout the

year happen. Cara Bauer asked what committees still needed chairs, and Sandy responded that most still needed a chair. Cara also mentioned that these sign-up sheets are always located in the foyer.

- Panther Pledges: Sandy reported that PTO is not asking students to sell anything this year for fundraising. PTO is taking a leap of faith that they can get enough in Panther Pledges and then re-evaluate the situation in January. PTO is not removing the fun nights such as Bingo Night or Trivia Night.
- PTO Focus for 2012-2013: Sandy reported that PTO will be focusing on the playground this year. She commended David Fingerhut on helping get information about updating the playground's safety for all children as well as updating the apparatuses for our students with special needs.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Christy Groner reported that one reason PTO decided to move towards Panther Pledges included the decreasing profits from fundraising over the last several years. Plus, relatives to whom you sell may appreciate donating an amount instead of buying miscellaneous items. Often employers will match your donation as well. The target for Panther Pledges is \$15,000 in order for students to not have to sell any products for the year. In case some parents were unaware of how PTO's funds are spent, Christy listed the following: a set amount of money given to each grade level teacher as well as to PE, Music, Art and the Science Fair; first graders' trip to the Symphony, library updates, Spirit Day, Typing Pal, beautification of the school grounds (kudos to David Fingerhut), insulation in all walls put up this summer, clocks and American flags in each classroom, two water fountains (outside of the gym and in the cafeteria) that allow students to fill water bottles, and a monitor for the foyer to show announcements for parents at drop off and dismissal times. Print copies of the budget will be available at Open House since the Smart Board was not available for use at this meeting. A letter about Panther Pledges will be sent out, and a visual will be posted somewhere in the school showing how much money has been received towards the goal of \$15,000.

Sandy described how the suggested donation of \$75 was determined by finding the average amount of sales each family brought into PTO through fundraising throughout the year. All donors will receive a tax deduction receipt for their Panther Pledge.

### **Vice President's Report:**

Jenni Stecher reported that the Room Parent meeting will be on Friday, September 7, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. Room parents help coordinate the three class parties (Fall, Winter and Valentine's). PTO wants at least one parent per class to be the head room parent as well as one grade level leader. A concerned parent came to Jenni and Sandy last year about communicating with other parents, so as a result, there will be a Getting Connected sign-up sheet in each classroom at open house so that parents can organize outside playdates and allow parents to get to know each other. All students will go home on Friday with a Shenandoah Valley cup that changes color with a cold beverage. Please mark them with your student's name for use at school.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Amy Lowrey asked about whether Shenandoah Valley collects boxtops or labels for education. Sandy reminded everyone to start saving these for the year as well as signing up for the Schnucks card or Target card that donates money to our school.

**New Business:**

The dedication of King's Corner will be on August 22, 2012, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., prior to Curriculum Night on the same evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Wellness Committee:**

Laura Beckmann reported why wellness has been emphasized within the Parkway District. Dr. Marty has made wellness one of the eight pillars of Parkway since good health is directly tied to better academics. All schools are required by law to have a Wellness Committee of parents, teachers, students, and health service personnel. Last year, the team created a Wellness Plan (will be available online soon) with five main goals, which include making students take both a vegetable and fruit when purchasing lunch. The Plan now needs to be implemented, and data and progress recorded throughout the year. Laura distributed a copy of the volunteer form listing all of the monthly Wellness Committee meetings (listed below), a listing of National Health and Wellness Observances, and a Shenandoah Valley Healthy Snack List (based on the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines) of products available at different local stores. She challenged everyone to attend and become a part of the committee. She also stated that Shenandoah will be a pilot school for the celebration service, which would allow parents to order and purchase healthier treats for their children's birthday celebrations online and then the treats would be delivered to the school on the chosen date. This pilot program should be available online soon.

September 10, 2012	9:15-10:15 a.m.
October 2, 2012	6:00-7:00 p.m.
November 6, 2012	6:00-7:00 p.m.
December 3, 2012	9:15-10:15 a.m.
January 8, 2013	6:00-7:00 p.m.
February 4, 2013	9:15-10:15 a.m.
March 5, 2013	6:00-7:00 p.m.
April 1, 2013	9:15-10:15 a.m.
May 7, 2013	6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Teacher's Report:**

Cathy Brown asked about whether teachers would be able to ask for supplies from PTO as they have done in the past. Jenni Stecher replied that PTO would be setting up a Giving Tree so that parents could donate items that teachers need. The school supply list was shorter this year for this reason, so that teachers could simply add a request for tissues or wipes when they needed them rather than having an over abundance of these items from year to year.

**Principal's Report:**

Dr. Luttrell thanked David Fingerhut for repairing the kindergarten shed as well as the shelving and mailboxes within the print room. She also thanked PTO for the drinking fountains that indicate how many plastic water bottles are saved by using the water fountain as well as the insulation placed between the walls that were put up this summer. Her Friday update will encourage parents to join PTO and volunteer within the building. Enrollment for this year has increased from 420 last year to 474 students this year. With this increase, Shenandoah Valley will have two more teaching assistants for kindergarten and third grade. She strongly encouraged parents to talk to teachers about any concerns they may have, but if more assistance

is needed, please contact her or Debbie Palazzola. The tour of the building will begin after the meeting has been adjourned.

**Adjourn:** Thank you for attending tonight's meeting. Please make an effort to continue attending meetings throughout the year and contact any of the Executive Board with ideas. Meetings alternate between mornings and evenings from month to month. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at 9:15 a.m. in the library. Agenda items are due by August 30. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.