

PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

Attendance: Laura Beckmann, Melissa Bredbenner, Cathy Brown, Beth Chausan, Nell Colozza, Jennifer Fee-Keller, Christy Groner, Gina Haralson, Pam Jesse, Steve Kadyk, Monica Kornblum, Rhonda LaChance, Sonya Land, Nicole Liebman, Sandy Lohss, Kay Lundry, Dr. Carrie Luttrell, Diane Mapes, Natalie Ostermann, Jenni Stecher, and Kara Wunderlich.

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.

February Meeting Minutes Approval: Approved first by Jenni Stecher and seconded by Nell Colozza.

Reports of Standing Committees:

- 5th Grade Celebration: Gina Haralson reported that they have accrued approximately \$2400 for the celebration thus far. The Skate Party was a success, profiting \$380 over the \$570 paid for the facility. They are at a deficit of approximately \$550 for invitations, printing of the memory books and payment for the ice cream truck. They are hoping to sell Colts/Panthers spiritwear during the Book Fair in April. Pam Jesse shared that she still had leftover Colts spiritwear from earlier in the year at the high school.
- Book Fair: Sandy shared Namita’s report that even with the poor weather and the lack of volunteers, the February Book Fair had sales of \$7200. PTO decided to take the cash (\$1800) rather than give more to the teachers since most of the teachers have not spent their allotted money from earlier in the year. The April Buy One Get One Free Book Fair will coincide with the Pancake Breakfast (9-11 a.m.) and Blood Drive (9 a.m.- 1 p.m.) on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. One person has volunteered to co-chair the Book Fair for next year, but PTO is still looking for another volunteer.
- Trivia Night: Pam Jesse reported that invitations were sent out in Friday folders last week with the oldest child in a family. Thank you to Amy Tuggle for creating the professional-looking invitations. All faculty members are invited to attend and bring one guest at no charge. Cathy Brown asked if teachers could possibly be seated with their own students’ parents. Steve Kadyk suggested that the teachers be auctioned at the beginning of the night to determine where they would sit. Everyone can bring their own beverages and food to Mercy. Monetary donations are being encouraged rather than gifts. Steve is in charge of collecting table reservations and all expenses. Christy Groner

asked if the AT&T wireless would work in the Mercy conference center for use of the Paypal account for credit card purchases. If interested in helping with the Trivia Night, meetings are being held every other Monday night at Pam Jesse's home at 7:00 p.m., with the next meeting being March 10.

Treasurer's Report: Christy reported that she, Kay and Dr. Luttrell went through the budget for next year, cutting approximately \$1000. Even though Panther Pledges were not as good as PTO had planned, PTO has spent less money this year as well. Christy and Kay are creating a detailed list that specifies what PTO would pay for within each grade level. They have pared out extraneous items that take up volunteer time but do not profit the organization (e.g., pre-packaged school supplies). Previous PTOs were hoarding money to pay for capital improvements that have now been accomplished through Parkway's bond issue, so this year, PTO wants to get rid of a couple of playground pieces, add a new climbing piece and a swing that can be used by all students, and really focus on spending this money on something the entire school can use. A discussion ensued about why only 30% of the families at Shenandoah Valley participated in the Panther Pledge program. Jennifer Fee-Keller mentioned her own non-participation due to having the mural removed from the cafeteria. This mural showed the names of families who donated to the school in prior years. Dr. Luttrell mentioned that pictures were taken of the mural by Cara Bauer and were supposed to be printed on canvas that could be transferrable to different locations as needed.

President's Report:

- Spring pictures will be on March 12, 2013, starting at 9 a.m.
- Party Restructure: Sandy announced the plan to have no Halloween or Winter parties next fall and to replace these parties with a movie time. Parents can join their kids for the movie. PTO will purchase a five-year unlimited access movie license for both PTO fundraisers and teacher use. Instead of having a Valentine's party, there will be a Spring party. With this plan, parents would only have to pay \$2 each for the Spring party after Winter Break. These changes have been suggested as a trial for next year for several reasons: not enough volunteers to organize the parties (plenty of people attending the day of the party but not willing to plan); older students tired of the parties; the same activities are repeated each year; Halloween, Trunk or Treat and Fall Party all occurring on the same day. An active discussion ensued with participation from most attending. Some completely disagreed and wanted to keep the parties as is. Suggestions for doing more service learning rather than crafts and games were mentioned. A concern was voiced for having the organizational room parent meeting not during the school day so that more parents that work could attend. A parent asked Dr. Luttrell to summarize her opinion about parties in other schools and districts and what would be the best option for students. Dr. Luttrell reported that parties have been phased out of most schools. The parties have evolved, giving students more choice and voice in the activities. Many include service-oriented activities that go beyond the one hour limit of a traditional party. As a result of the discussion, PTO decided to have a Thanksgiving party and a Spring party, giving more time between the parties to plan as well as new party themes to work with. Laura Beckmann agreed to work on something active for the parties such as a Turkey Trot.
- 5th Grade Celebration Restructure: Parents of fifth grade students will be asked to pay a set amount at the beginning of the year for the 5th Grade Celebration, and money in the

PTO budget will be used as a backup for the celebration. There will be no more 5th Grade gifts to the school since Parkway is still behind on the work orders required to put up last year's flags. Gina was opposed to this idea of asking for money up front since people will be less willing to donate at fundraisers if they have already given money at the beginning of the year. She also emphasized the fact that this year's committee chose not to take money from PTO, and they chose to fundraise for the entire celebration's expenses.

- **2013-2014 Executive Board:** The following positions are open on the Executive Board for next year: corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer (The vice-president position is elected through the Board.). We are still looking for someone for the role of assistant treasurer. A list of those positions and their duties can be found in the PTO Bylaws on our website. If you are interested in being on the board, please contact any current board member. PTO would really like to have every grade level represented if possible.

New Business: Jennifer Fee-Keller spoke about the Colts/Junior Colts football program being expanded to include fifth graders. This Friday, she will be running a booth at River Bend's winter festival to encourage participation and showcase the football players as volunteers in any way they could be used.

Wellness Committee: Laura Beckmann announced that they have created a timeline for developing the rain garden near the track. Steve Kadyk will be working with Katie Osborne to test the soil and plan for appropriate plants, the Boy Scouts will be prepping the area for planting, Student Council will be promoting the planting on May 4, 2013, and Ms. Eufinger will be studying the water cycle within the garden. Students will be given seeds in early spring to take home, plant, and bring back produce for a Farmer's Market in the fall. The teachers have continued to utilize the bulletin board (amounts of sugar in beverages) for instruction. SVE received a \$750 Staff Wellness Grant to enhance the pedometer program. Students collected almost \$4000 for Jump for Heart (of which the school will receive \$400). Matt Conley and Alicia Wilson received the Parkway Parents Advisory Council for Children with Disabilities (PACCD) award for their PE Mentors program (including a stipend of \$200).

Teacher's Report: Cathy Brown was surprised at the response she has gotten from putting up her wish list of items needed on TeacherLists.com. Approximately two-thirds of the staff has set up a wish list online.

Principal's Report: Dr. Luttrell announced that Shenandoah Valley fifth graders have been selected to take the Smarter Balance Assessment pilot test in April. It will consist of all multiple choice or constructed response items and no performance assessment. No data will come back from this and the emphasis for students will be "no-stress"; however our students' scores will be a part of determining the cut scores for norming the achievement levels of the national test. This test will be completely computerized and will also be an adaptive assessment where the next question is determined by the response on the prior question. With only the one day of on-site kindergarten registration, Shenandoah enrolled 40 kindergarteners, but now parents have to enroll at Parkway Central and Shenandoah is unaware of an accurate class count. She

encouraged all parents to communicate the importance of registering early to any friends or neighbors so that staffing could be determined now rather than later in the summer.

Adjourn: Thank you for attending today's meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at 9:15 a.m. in the library. Agenda items are due by March 28, 2013. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. by Sandy Lohss.