

PTO Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 7, 2013

**Call to Order:** 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** Melissa Bredbenner, Carol Boriss, Nell Colozza, Jennifer Fee-Keller, Kelly Fraser, Christy Groner, Gina Haralson, Sue Han, Steve Kadyk, Sonya Land, Sandy Lohss, Dr. Carrie Luttrell, Diane Mapes, Namita Paranjothi, Mary Robinson, 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.

**April Meeting Minutes Approval:** Approved first by Kara Wunderlich and seconded by Jennifer Fee-Keller.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration:** Gina Haralson reported that they had made back the cost on the spirit wear by approximately \$100. They also plan on selling shirts again at Stomp. Nell suggested that the fifth graders’ shirts would say Central Middle in the future to see if more kids would purchase them. Gina reported that the Skate Party had only 32 attendees, but all participants had a great time. Fifth Grade Celebration has raised about \$4100 and has been given \$1000 from PTO. Namita reported that \$399 was left from 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom party dues, and this balance would be given to the celebration as well. Gina announced that the celebration would be held at Brunswick Zone in St. Peters on May 21. Food will be included in the cost from Brunswick. The Kona Ice truck would be present at the school where they plan on having a summer/water activity on the field on the same day. There was some discussion about needing cash for tipping of any services for the day.
- **Trivia Night:** Kara Wunderlich announced that Trivia Night made a profit of \$7100. Steve Kadyk reported that they want to tap a different sort of fundraiser for next year by having an auction for grade level parties for students. Sandy noted that Trivia Night had a fantastic turnout, was located at a great venue, and how wonderful it was to have lots of staff attend.

**President’s Report:**

- **Playground Equipment:** Parkway was quick about installing the new climber and swing on the playground. PTO has received many lovely cards and emails from students and parents regarding the new equipment. Dr. Luttrell was surprised by the speed as well with only two carpenters for the district. Jennifer Fee-Keller asked about putting up the flags donated by 2012 fifth graders ourselves. Jenni Stecher asked about the removal of the tree in the front area and the problems with drainage there. Dr. Luttrell stated that

this would not be fixed until all construction on the roof is complete due to trucks and other equipment using this area.

- Wagner: PTO will use Wagner for one more year for pictures. Wagner would like a detailed list of Shenandoah Valley's needs, and Dr. Luttrell would like to meet with them personally. PTO would like to thank Jenifer Hanser for doing the yearbook again this year.
- Central Middle School PTO: They are in dire need of help with the Beautification Committee next year.
- Parties: Sonya Land shared the survey results (see attached page). PTO was happy with the 142 responses it received. All grade levels and staff overwhelmingly voted to stay with three parties: Halloween, Winter, and Spring. The Halloween party will be on the same night as Trunk or Treat (the Friday before Halloween), the Winter Party will fall on the last day of school before Winter Break, and the Spring Fling will be on the last day of school before Spring Break. Jennifer Fee-Keller asked why there was not an additional question regarding a change from Valentine's Day to Spring Fling. She would have liked to see a question or choice for no change in the party schedule. Several PTO members mentioned the additional time this gives to plan the Spring party after the Winter party as well as having fewer volunteers available for the Valentine's party. There was a discussion about the day/night of Trunk or Treat, the higher number of middle school students in attendance, and the need for some sort of security at the event.
- Teacher Appreciation: Sandy thanked Jenni for organizing meals for the kindergarten teachers as well as for Tuesday of Teacher Appreciation week by using Volunteer Spot online. She also thanked all of the parents who stepped up to take care of our staff. Christy reported that the board of needed items for the kindergarten classrooms is almost empty, and PTO would purchase the more difficult items and also touch base with the teachers in August to find out what didn't get replaced.

**Vice President's Report:** Jenni Stecher reported that they will need as many volunteers as possible for Spirit Day. She will be sending out the reservation form for lunch soon, and there was a good turnout for the meeting earlier this evening. She will be using Volunteer Spot to organize people for the event. She initiated a long discussion about Fall Festival and whether we wish to continue this tradition. After discussing the possibility of different days (Friday or Saturday) and different times (afternoon or evening), there was general agreement that we will no longer have the Fall Festival but consolidate the event with the Back to School picnic. Families will still be asked to bring their own picnic food or be able to utilize the food trucks that will be invited to the event. Senior Men and Women from the high school will be asked to volunteer to run the carnival games. When no one was interested in chairing the event, Dr. Luttrell offered an idea of having grade levels be responsible for specific PTO events each year. She also would like to see some student leadership/orientation by a possible Scoutmaster on how to fold the flag at the Back to School picnic.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Panther Pledge balance is currently \$11698, which includes matches from businesses. This amount exceeded what we made from fundraising last year but did not quite reach PTO's goal. Christy would like to have access to the wireless Internet for Open House so that she could take credit card payments for the Panther Pledge next year.

**New Business:** Jenni Stecher would like to extend the Open House sessions to 30 minutes each so that teachers do not feel the need to rush through their material and not have time for individual questions from parents. Dr. Luttrell stated that she would discuss this with the

teachers. Jennifer Fee-Keller asked if the attendance at evening PTO meetings was greater than those which occur in the mornings. Sonya Land responded that the attendance is not dependent upon the time of the meeting. Christy Groner mentioned that PTO would be hosting a shower for Mr. Conley on May 21, 2013, before school. If interested in donating, please contact her since she will be buying one large gift card.

**Wellness Committee:** Steve Kadyk reported that they went through the checklist for the year as well as worked on the ideas for the rain garden and adding it to the curriculum.

**Teacher's Report:** Carol Boriss thanked everyone for the fabulous lunch for Teacher Appreciation Week.

**Principal's Report:** Earlier in the meeting (after the President's report), Dr. Luttrell reported that the subcontractors are ready to start on the roof. They will start with the penthouse then move to the gym and finally to the 500 wing. The 500 wing is basically down to concrete and steel supports with a grid ceiling. Some of the interior walls are still there; they took measurements to see how far the mold extended up the walls. Currently, they are waiting for inspections and permits to begin the work. Since the summer school enrollment already utilized the entire school's capacity, summer school needed to be moved to River Bend. Parking will be an issue there, so please consider using the bus service from Shenandoah Valley. Parents should receive a postcard with bus times soon. Nell asked if there would be assistance for kindergartners who are not used to riding the bus.

Later in the meeting, Dr. Luttrell thanked everyone for the flowers for Teacher Appreciation Week and noted that interviews for the following positions would be occurring on the respective evenings: librarian (Wednesday), 4<sup>th</sup> grade (Thursday), 5<sup>th</sup> grade (next week). There are currently three sections for second grade due to Ms. Pearson's retirement. Only 51 kindergarteners have enrolled, and she and Ms. Palazzola have exhausted all options, calling area preschools and the Early Childhood Center and asking for names of students who would enroll at Shenandoah Valley.

**Adjourn:** Thank you for attending today's meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Sandy Lohss. This is the final PTO meeting for the 2012-2013 school year; we will see you all at our next year's PTO meeting! Sandy wanted to say that it has been a privilege to be the Shenandoah Valley PTO President this year. She thanks each and every one of our parents, teachers, staff, Dr. Luttrell, and Mrs. Palazzola and this year's PTO Board. It's been a great year despite the storm damage and a couple of bumps. Have a wonderful summer! She hopes that everyone gets to stop and enjoy their days or day with their children and bask in the sun that shines on them as our children are special in every way possible. Embrace their hearts so pure, smiles so innocent, and their pranks so endearing.

	2 Parties	3 Parties	Halloween (2)	Thanksgiving (2)	Halloween (3)	Thanksgiving (3)
Kindergarten	5	20	21	4	24	1
First Grade	8	17	17	8	21	4
Second Grade	9	21	22	8	23	7
Third Grade	8	13	12	9	13	8
Fourth Grade	6	23	21	8	24	5
Staff	7	5	12	0	12	0
Totals	43	99	105	37	117	25

142 responses

