

PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Attendance: Carol Boriss, Missy Bredbenner, Beth Chausow, Brianne Dorn, David Fingerhut, Margi Goehl-Dolnick, Christy Groner, Abby Goldberg, Sonya Land, Dr. Carrie Luttrell, Jessica Maiden, Diane Mapes, Lisa Mankowich, Trista Mcswain, Marlena Neal, Mary Robinson, Toni Sharlow, Jenni Stecher, Tracey Thaler-Wattson, Amanda Whittle

Welcome All: Jenni Stecher 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.

PTO Board introduced themselves.

August Meeting Minutes Approval: Approved first by Sonya Land and seconded by Christy Groner.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Back to School Carnival: Jenni Stecher reported this event was fun and very well attended and asked for feedback on ways to make it better. One person said it was better than last year. Jenni stated the Girl Scouts really did a great job. PTO made money back on the snow cone sales and that money covered the prizes for the games. The cost of the bubble bus was not a hardship on the budget.

Beautification: Will be Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 am -12 pm. Please contact Sandy Lohss if you are interested in volunteering time that day or donating bulbs, trees, shrubs, etc. Additional information is also posted on the PTO webpage.

Block Homes: Sandy Lohss is in charge of this SVE program. The Block Homes packet went home with students last Friday. If interested in volunteering or you have questions, please contact Sandy. Applications are due back by Sept 11. Once approved, you will receive a Block Home sign and any child that feels threatened in some way or needs help can see your sign in the window and know that your home is a safe one to go to. Neighbors on your street that may not have students in Parkway are also welcome to apply. Please spread the work.

Movie Night: Christy Groner stated that PTO purchased a one year license to have movies shown in the building. The idea was to have a once a month family fun night. Movies can be viewed

indoors or outdoors with the use of a screen from the high school. Movies shown will appeal to all ages. If anyone is interested in volunteering or organizing concessions (hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks) to raise funds for PTO please contact Jenni Stecher. Fall Festival will not be held this year due to low attendance the past couple of years. The carnival and movie nights will replace it this year.

President's Report:

Committee Volunteers: Sign-ups went very well. Most popular committees were Abilities Awareness, Bingo Night, Book Fair, Family Fitness, Promotions and Redemptions, Teacher & Staff Birthday Celebrations and Trivia Night. There were about 60 online volunteers. We still need Chairpersons for some committees. It's not too late to sign up, anyone interested in volunteering please contact Jenni Stecher directly. She has already starting sending the chairs their information and doesn't want to miss anyone. We are proud of the involvement of the parents at SVE.

Panther Pledge Drive: We will not be asking for students/families to sell items but asking for pledges to make money. We have a budget of 15K. Forms will be sent home this Friday with students and there is an online donation form available through the SVE website. We hope to have 100% returns on our request. Payments are tax deductible and tax letters will be sent. We will also have an opportunity to make money with the Trivia Night.

Spirit Wear: The clothing options are still on display in the lobby. Due date for orders is Sept. 20. Order forms are available via the PTO webpage.

Vice President's Report: Party Dues envelopes will be sent home with students this Friday. Dues are \$10 per child (\$15 for fifth grade students for the extra cost of the Fifth Grade Celebration). Please send cash, no checks.

Treasurer's Report: Christy Groner stated there was nothing new to report at this time. Jenni Stecher added that the budget is online to view for those interested.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Wellness Committee: Mr. Dan Flick (Parkway Chef) spoke about the new easy and healthy party purchase options this year. He has supported and introduced new healthier menu items (salad bar, fruits, veggies, improved deli meats, chicken, etc.) to the lunch schedule. He loves the kids and his goal is to help students be healthier and happier with the choices. The school cafeterias are self-supporting and receive no government or district funds. They depend on families to purchase food and party supply items to generate income. Party item portions are appropriate size for elementary aged children. Make it easy on yourselves and keep from having to go to other stores. The prices are comparable if not cheaper than elsewhere. He distributed order forms. They are also available online. The low sugar items listed on the order sheet do not have artificial sweeteners. Chef Dan can be reached at #314-415-8242. He would like 14 days advance notice. Sonya Land inquired about the portions/servings. He is happy and willing to work with parents and their wishes. Payments are accepted in the SVE cafeteria in the form of check or cash along with the order form. Amy Shipp can also be of assistance.

Teacher's Report: Carol Boriss reported that many of the teachers attended the Back to School Carnival with their families and enjoyed it. They noted the Bubble Bus was a hit. She added a suggestion that next year it not be held the day after Curriculum Night. Further discussion followed and PTO had taken that into consideration when planning the event. The Jewish holidays limited times available for the event this year.

Principal's Report: Dr. Carrie Luttrell spoke about Facilities 2020. She has developed a team to help determine our building/facility needs. The team will attend the meeting at Parkway Central this fall (Oct. 2) to discuss possible bond issue. Debbie Palazzola will lead the committee, along with Jenni Stecher, Sandy Lohss, Steve Kadyk and David Fingerhut. The committee will also include 2-3 support staff (custodian, food service, secretary) as well as 2-3 teachers. The three priorities for input are resurfacing the parking lot/black top area, new roof and addition for a larger cafeteria. She discussed the important need for longer lunchtimes for the students which a larger cafeteria would provide. Please see her update for additional information in the newsletter on Friday.

Character education – Student Council is not up and running because it is being redeveloped because every student is a leader in his/her own way. They are taking time to do it the right way and not make quick or radical changes. Students will be partnered with one another to work on projects and take on responsibilities/jobs in the classroom. She told a story about a student and the importance of the need to channel his strengths in the right direction as well as set goals. Children really aim to please others and want to be successful. Dr. Luttrell has been helping him build confidence and take ownership of his responsibilities. Dr. Luttrell hopes to have some students report on their own stories regarding the Leader in Me project at our next meeting.

Adjourn: Jenni Stecher reminded everyone that Sonya Land will send out PTO email updates on Wednesdays so please have anything you want included to her prior to Tuesday 8 pm. PTO related items/announcements will be on purple paper.

Mary Robinson asked a question regarding her concern about iced drink sales at lunch. She said the kids were not finishing the drink inside and taking them outside during recess and that option was sending mixed messages. Dr. Luttrell is looking into the issue and thanked the parent for bringing it to her attention.

Thank you for attending today's meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, Oct 1 at 9:15 am in the library. Agenda items are due by Sept 30th. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm by Jenni Stecher.