

PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Attendance: Laura Beckman, Carol Boriss, Missy Bredbenner, Beth Chausow, Brianne Dorn, Margi Goehl-Dolnick, Steve Kadyk, Madhurika Kandula, Sonya Land, Sandy Lohss, Kay Lundry, Dr. Carrie Luttrell, Diane Mapes, Jenni Stecher

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.

October Meeting Minutes Approval: Approved first by Sandy Lohss and seconded by Sonya Land

Reports of Standing Committees:

Veteran’s Day Celebration: Carol Boriss said this event has been a great experience working with parents and teachers. Many parents have come forward and volunteered their time, money and energy. 9 elementary schools in the Parkway School District are celebrating Veteran’s Day on Mon., Nov. 11 in some way. Carol presented an overview of the event as well as the parade route. Veterans will begin arriving at 9 am. All groups participating will begin lining up shortly after 9 am for the parade at 9:30 am. There has been great support from PTO for this event. Jenni Stecher asked about media coverage and Carol responded that Paul Tandy has made arrangements for this. Dr. Carrie Luttrell added that Carol Boriss and Lisa Conway have done a wonderful job planning for this event and thanked them for their hard work. Students must have signed permission slips to attend. If you have misplaced yours you may pick up another at the school front desk or provide a handwritten note.

Book Fair: Madhurika Kandula reported this event will be November 11-14. Teachers may shop on Tuesday Nov. 12. Additional volunteers are needed for book sales Thursday afternoon and evening. Please contact Namita Paranjothi if you are able to help or sign up online via the PTO website.

Movie Night: Jenni Stecher reported this event is this Friday, Nov 8. The movie is ‘The Croods.’ Participating students may enter their name in a raffle to take the movie home. Admission cost is \$1 per person and hot dogs, popcorn and water will be available for purchase. This is a family event and parents are required to attend with their children.

Bingo Night: This is scheduled for January 31, 2014. 5th grade students will be handing concessions.

Family Fitness: Sandy Lohss is excited about the large amount of interest in this. She has been posting accumulated mileage of the walking group on the Facebook page – so far 76.64 miles (Yay!). The group walks every Wednesday morning after student drop off (weather permitting). The Family Fitness hike is scheduled for this Sunday, Nov. 10 at 1:30 pm at Faust Park. Meet at the Thornhill house. Teachers are also invited. Look for the link to the map on the PTO webpage. This is a great way for families in the SVE community to get out and enjoy nature, get to know each other and explore all that Chesterfield has to offer. Jenni Stecher thanked Sandy for all her hard work with this committee.

Treasurer's Report: Kay Lundry reported the Panther Pledge total to date is \$10,273.00. Jenni Stecher reported that profit from Spirit Wear is \$320.75.

President's Report:

Recording Secretary: Last month the PTO VP position was filled by Beth Chausow and this left the Recording Secretary position open. Jenni Stecher asked for a motion for a nomination. Beth Chausow made a motion to nominate Brianne Dorn to the Recording Secretary position and a vote was held and Brianne was elected. Jenni thanked Brianne and welcomed her to the PTO Board.

Panther Pledge 2nd Drive: The goal is \$15,000.00 and we are doing quite well. Jenni plans to send a reminder out to parents next week. Payments are tax deductible.

Sharing Panther Kindness: Volunteers are needed for the mornings (9-10:30 am) of November 12-14 to help students choose mittens from the bulletin board. Forms went home a couple of weeks ago. Sign up online on PTO website to volunteer.

Vice President's Report: Nothing to report.

New Business: Jenni Stecher reported Schnucks Escrips cards will be going out soon. After some discussion, it was decided that brief registration instructions need to be included with the cards. Sonya Land added that registering her card via telephone was easy and recommended this method.

Wellness Committee: Laura Beckman spoke about the Leader in Me project and so far they have 15 students involved. They recently applied for a \$3900.00 grant for Fuel Up to Play 60 that would allow students to do taste tests. They also have implemented peer teaching projects such as "Slow, Go, Whoa" to try to encourage students to eat more fruits and veggies. Students will color code items on the cafeteria menu to display healthy and less healthy food options. They submitted 200 healthy living slogans for a poster contest. Last year there were 2 winners from SVE in the K-5th grade category so this year they hope to get good results again. Laura's nephew (current MLB player) will speak to the 4th and 5th graders about his career and how Panther Pride has benefited him.

Teacher's Report: Carol Boriss announced that she collects Halloween costumes for students who don't have one the day of the school party. If you have any unwanted costumes please consider donating to Carol for SVE use. She especially needs boy costumes.

Principal's Report: Dr. Carrie Luttrell said they are continuing their work with the 'Seven Habits of Happy Kids' book project. PTO purchased 100 copies of this book. The books are currently with library services getting protective covers and barcodes and will return shortly and be placed in the SVE library on a designated shelf available for students to check out. Parents may be asked to help their child read about the habit they have discussed in class. The counselors have done a terrific job with this project.

Student Council has been redeveloped because every student is a leader in his/her own way. Every student now has an opportunity to become a Student Leader. There are 58 Student Leaders participating in a leadership role in some capacity. The goal is that all 5th graders will participate in a leadership role by the end of the year. Leadership roles determined by the interests of the students include: Announcement Leaders (morning and afternoon announcements), Technology Leaders (create PowerPoint slides for the school TV), Greeter Leaders (inside and outside), News Crew Leaders (weekly story of interest for Dr. Luttrell's Friday update), Tour Guide Leaders, Flag Leaders and Wellness Leaders. The interest and enthusiasm of the students has been great and they rarely need reminders to do their jobs. It is great to see the ownership and pride they take in their school and community.

She showed a video about one of the habits the 1st grade students have been learning. The video featured 2 students and their goals for writing utilizing the habit "Beginning with the end in mind."

She also mentioned the new partnership formed between Parkway and Rockwood that will replace the Y club before and after school care as part of community education. It is called Adventure Club. It will be very similar as far as structure and services that the Y club offers but will have Parkway employees which will be nice. Parkway principals will have a voice in hiring such employees as well as input about the curriculum. 9 schools will participate in this next year and 9 more the following year. Look for more information to follow as they continue to work on the planning.

Adjourn: Reminder of the Executive PTO Board meeting on Friday at 9:15 am with Dr. Luttrell.

Thank you for attending today's meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan 7, 2014 at 9:15 am in the library. Agenda items are due by Jan 6, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm by Jenni Stecher.