

PTO Meeting September 9, 2014

Attended by:

Jenni Stecher, Valerie Harris, Nan Frarbs, Steve Kadyk, Dave Carron, Heather Carron, Lisa Villareal, Sandy Lohss, Lisa Mankowich, Bridgette Kearbey, Dana Evans, Sonya Land, Beth Chausow, Barrett Hadican, Kelly Fraser, Tracy Thaler, Brianne Dorn, Kay Lundry, Megan Morford, Toni Sharlow, Stacia Wagers, Carol Boriss, Nimrod Levy, Anastasia Averbukh, Olena Novytska, Jennie Iverson, Steven Shane

I. Call to order 7:06 p.m. by Jenni Stecher

The experience of all PTO meetings is for them to last approximately one hour. According to the published By Laws, 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 other 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.

II. Welcome-Introductions

Jenni Stecher welcomed and explained that there would be less meetings this year since the PTO is so transparent with emails. The PTO Executive Board discussed their responsibilities and all in attendance introduced themselves.

III. May Meeting Minutes

IV. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Back to school Carnival was September 5 and was good until the rain. Jenni isn't sure yet of the final financials, but we did not go over budget. The hot dogs were a good hit. Jenni asked for suggestions for next year. A parent commented that the bubble bus was a lot of fun.

B. Beautification is coming up in October and is an ongoing project to create a sustainable garden. Last year we started asking for plant donations which was very successful. Someone also donated some iris bulbs. Please contact Sandy with any ideas or wants to help. This is Sandy's last year as chair, so if anyone is interested, please let the board know.

C. Pancake Breakfast will be on the same morning as beautification, October 11. We hope people will come out and have breakfast and help beautification. This is considered a family fun event, not a fundraiser.

D. Spirit Wear-The samples for this year are available in the lobby; Missy the assistant treasurer is in charge of this. Order forms were sent out last Friday and are also available online. There are also v-neck and zip-up hoodies available for sale this year.

V. Officer Reports

A. President's Report

Panther Pledge Drive-In the next months or so, more emails will be coming out regarding this. We are at about \$5100 right now, about a third of a way to our goal. It is our hope to not have to sell items to make our budget; we prefer to only use our Panther Pledge. Jenni suggested looking into company donation match to see if your company will donate to the school. Grandparents are also a good resource for possible donations. It is a tax deductible donation. The link for donations via pay pal is available on the right side of the PTO website.

The track really needs to be refinished, so any donations over \$15000 will go straight towards that fund. Some funds have been set aside over the years to pay for various things, and we currently have money to look into having the track refurbished. The Panther Pledge donations are optional, and time is also a way to donate and participate.

PTO Board-There will be two openings on the board for next year: 2 secretary positions will be open next year. The PTO board is a great way to meet people, be involved, and get to know the Principal. Those elections will be held at the April meeting.

B. VP Report

Committee Chairs-Online sign-ups went great; we have 168 sign-ups. Beth went through each committee and discussed who the chair would be for each committee. Book Fair has an open position for committee chair that needs to be filled. A parent asked when the first book fair is and it is in November during parent/teacher conference week. Jenni discussed that she is the movie night chair and would like to train someone to set the movie up just in case she is unavailable at some point. The new family welcoming committee is a work in progress and could work with Julie the secretary to get the names of new families. A parent asked which committees required help during the day, so Beth went through that. The committee chair info will be available online.

C. Treasurer Report

2014-2015 Proposed Budget-Jenni went through the budget and mentioned a few high points. Trivia Night was discussed, and it is our hope that we raise \$7000. Other schools in our area bring a lot more money than we do and we are hoping Trivia Night will be a great success this year. Box Tops are due in October. General Mills has a Box Top promotion going on and you can like the Box Tops Facebook page and earn extra tops. Schnucks also has a card that you can use where we earn money when you shop there. Book Fair proceeds will go for the track project, and we give the teachers the book credits to improve their classroom libraries. New rainy day board games were purchased this past week, and new gym balls were also purchased. A new paper cart will be purchased for the school as well. Last year money was used to purchase a security door for the kindergarten/SSD wing, gym lights, and water fountain updates. PTO also spends money on Spirit Day each year at the end of the year.

VI. New Business

Proposition S-Steve Kadyk spoke about the new bond issue. The previous bond issue from 2008 helped us have new plumbing, new HVAC, and divided classrooms. The new one will focus more on the middle and high schools. Most of the buildings are over 40 years old, and there are a lot of maintenance issues to these buildings. Project Parkway was created using parents, staff, and executives to create a list of priorities to keep the schools functioning, and the bond issue will allow for these to be taken care of. The day to vote is November 8. It is a goal to get the message out about the bond issue. Volunteers will

be needed to place signs in their yards or to help in other ways. Jenni thanked Steve for stepping up to be committee chair.

Boy Scouts- Nimrod Levy came to speak about Boy Scouts. The PTO is the charter organization to allow the Boy Scouts into the school. The Boy Scouts help with beautification at the school. Boy Scouts is a youth led program, and students decide what activities they would like to participate in and the adults guide the future leaders in their choices. They camp a lot and do lots of high adventure activities. Mr. Levy thanked the PTO for sponsoring the Boy Scouts. Thursday night is Cub Scout sign up and is much more parent led, but students are encouraged to make good choices and participate in adventures. Cub Scouts starts in first grade.

Mrs. Wagers-BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)-Google Apps are rolling out this year and will be used in every grade. There is a new library cataloging system this year and apps are available to download to access the catalog at home. Students have their own accounts, and students can share book suggestions through this program. BYOD is for fourth and fifth grade. Google friendly devices are recommended for students to bring to school. Library time teaches students to use technology safely and responsibly. Parkway created a website for parents to get to know more about Google Apps and how to use and navigate it.

VII. Wellness Committee

Mrs. Joanne Peugh, School Nurse-Last year we were a pilot school for school flu clinics that Parkway put into place. On Tuesday, October 14, in the strings room, there will be a flu clinic at school to offer students the flu vaccine. The forms will go out this Friday in the Friday folder. The mist, \$25, and shot, \$35, will both be available, and a receipt will be given. The flu mist is more effective than the shot and offers protection from 4 flu strands instead of 3. Children with asthma and other medical issues may not be allowed to receive the mist.

VIII. Teacher Report- Mrs. Boriss

She thanked the PTO for the staff t-shirts, clipboards, and gifts for students. Mrs. Conway and Mrs. Boriss co- chair the Veterans' Day committee. Each Veterans' Day, we have a parade, short ceremony, and reception. Mrs. Boriss went through various positions that need to be filled for the day. About 14 volunteers are needed to help with the celebration.

IX. Principal's Report-Dr. Luttrell

She thanked the PTO for the staff t-shirts. Dr. Luttrell stated that committees and relationships are very important, and she does her best to remember the children's names.

In the last couple of years, we have been working to bring a character initiative: working with children to think about their actions and thoughts and how we can positively frame what we do and redirect if necessary. We use Panther Pride as one way to do this. Another way we are doing this is to incorporate ideas and strategies from Habits of Highly Happy Children. We are implementing Leader in Me and writing a grant to train the entire staff and train parents, including the PTO Executive Board. We are hoping to submit the grant by the end of 2014, and training would probably take place in the summer and move forward embedding this mental model. Dr. Luttrell stated that we are still recovering from the flooding from January 10, and there are many new book shelves in the library and many other

shelves still need to be resurfaced. She is very appreciative for all the help from parents to help move and restock the new shelves.

X. Adjourn 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting is January 13, 2015, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library.