

November 1, 2011 PTO Minutes

Call to Order: 9:15 am

Attendance: Stephanie Alport, Carrie Luttrell, Kimberly Lederman, Jenni Stecher, Cathy Brown, Sandy Lohss, Nell Colozza, Namita Paranjothi, Carol Aguilar, Mary Robinson, Monica Kornblum, Jo Schulman and Cara Bauer.

Welcome All: Cara Bauer the President of PTO welcomed everyone.

Minutes: Approved 1st by Jenni Stecher and 2nd by Monica Kornblum.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Pre-Sold School Supplies: Stephanie Alport wants the school to decide if it wants to include the non-educational items in the school supply list for pre-sold school supplies or remove those items from the list. Eliminating the non-educational items would make purchasing the packages cheaper. Families could purchase the non-educational supplies cheaper elsewhere.

Book Fair: Namita Paranjothi and Carol Aguilar reported the theme is "To The Book Fair And Beyond" and will be held on November 14th-18th. Online book fair orders will be available this year. A spaceship photo booth will be available where kids can pay \$1 to have their picture taken. This money will go towards purchasing books. Set up for the Book Fair will be on Thursday, November 10th. Volunteers are needed. If anyone wants to help please let Namita or Carol know.

Fifth Grade Celebration-

Trunk or Treat: Jo Schulman and Stephanie Alport reported that Trunk or Treat had over 110 paid reservations. The families that attended had a great time. The PTO made \$1200, which will go towards the Fifth Grade Celebration at the end of the school year.

The Key Chains are \$2 and the Window Clings are \$3. They are still available for purchase.

Special Spirit Wear- No additional spirit wear will be sold for the Fifth Grade Celebration. The school will be selling its traditional spirit wear. Fifth Grade Celebration meeting will be Thursday, November 10th at 7:30 pm.

Promotions/ Redemptions: Cara Bauer reported for Lori Savage. The school earned \$600 in Box Tops in less than three weeks with the 1st contest. The winners are First grade, Third Grade and Fourth Grade. The winners will get an extra recess. Lori may run a similar contest in the 2nd trimester.

Hospitality - Conference Night Dinners- Cara Bauer reported in place of Harvest Lunch, families can provide soups, salads and dessert on Conference Night for the teachers. A email will be going out asking for volunteers.

Officer Reports

President's Report:

Buzz Book: Cara Bauer reported that Buzz Books went out to all students who ordered them. The Buzz Book does not have email addresses in it. The district would not let the school put the email addresses in the Buzz Book at this time.

PTO Committee and Budget Info- Cara handed out this information to everyone at the meeting to clarify how the PTO budget works, the tax exempt set up of the PTO and guidelines for the committee chairs. This is a draft of the information, and she would like feedback before making it final to be handed out to committee chairs in the future.

VP's Report: Sandy Lohss had nothing to report.

Treasurers Report: Cara Bauer reported for Christy Groner. The PTO came in under budget with the back to school gifts. A flyer was given out with the Budget information. Some grades are using their activity money. The PTO is not making budget this year on fundraising. The Tax Return has been filed.

Unfinished Business: Nothing to report

New Business

Panther Caring for Families: Debbie Palozzola and Jo Schulman reported that a new program has been started at the school called Caring Panther Kindness. This program is for families at the school who are in need. Administration and the school counselors chose 4 families within the school. Mittens will be hanging in the school and if families want to participate, they can take a mitten and purchase the item on the mitten. Another way to donate would be to send in cash, which will go towards grocery gift cards for the families. Look for the flyers coming soon.

Debbie Palozzola reported a salad bar will be added to the cafeteria. Students will be able to use it in a couple weeks. The school's food service has very limited space in the cafeteria. The workers have been pulling their work space back trying to make room for students. The YMCA and Boy Scouts have cabinets in the cafeteria that are taking up space the school desperately needs. The school is looking into building permanent cabinets on the stage area in the cafeteria. This would open up floor space for the children in the cafeteria. Placing the cabinets up on the stage would mean the mural in the cafeteria would no longer be there. The names on the mural will be honored

a different way such as maybe using a plaque. Administration understands the mural was a fundraiser and they are discussing options as to how they can still honor those people who have their names on the mural. For future fundraisers, the school would like to place murals like this on a canvas. This would allow when the mural to be moved around the school as needed.

Principal's Report: Carrie Luttrell reported she was able to go around to the children's classrooms for the Fall parties. She was impressed with how well the parties all went and enjoyed watching the kids have fun. The siblings that did come were fabulous. She is very appreciative of everyone's work to make the Fall Party happen for the children.

Carrie was happy to report that dismissal has been going great with the new dismissal plan. The safety aspect for the children has greatly improved and Carrie has been able to catch a few situations before the situation happened.

The school was going to add an addition on to the back of the school for the music and strings room. Several hundred thousands of dollars would have been spent on this addition. She reported the district needs to tighten its belt and after looking at things that need to be done at the school, the addition won't be built. As for the strings room, the school will increase the floor space in the strings room by providing built in instrument storage. A staff bathroom will be built. A permanent special educational room will be built for Mrs. Welch in the fifth grade area pod. This way, the children will remain with the older children in the school. The school will create two nice size permanent classrooms by using the computer lab and math intervention room by removing the wall and dividing it in half creating a permanent math intervention room and a permanent mosaic room. The office area where it currently is at will have some walls knocked out increasing a direct line of sight vision to the front doors. Professionally permanent secretary workstations will be will be built. A print room and Assistant Principal Office will also be built along with so much more. All of this can be done for far less money than adding on an addition to the school. Once the final draft of the blue print is done, it will be available for the community to look at. All projects will be done this summer.

The crisis plan and crisis manual are being updated. The school is asking parents to make sure that Diane Pretak has all emergency contacts noted on the pickup list.

Teacher's Report: Cathy Brown had nothing to report

Adjourn: 10:15 am

Next PTO meeting is Tuesday January 10 at 7 pm