

Parkway West Middle School PTO Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 – 7:00pm – Library

Attendees: Gretchen Bertz, Michael Bertz, Laura DeLuca, Melissa Pence, Holly Schultz, Collen Wilson, Kevin Davis, Ellie Davis, Jenn Gibbs, Mary Ellen Franciscus

Meeting called to order by: Jenn Gibbs at 7:05pm

Minutes: reviewed and approved

- Motion made by Michael Bertz
- Seconded by Colleen Wilson

Guest Speaker: Michael Bertz, Citizens for the Parkway Community, on the Proposition S Bond Issue on the November 6 ballot

- Buildings are old; Parkway needs to update and maintain them
- The bond issue is part of an ongoing plan
- Three reasons for the bond issue:
 - *Protecting our investment* in facilities, education, and property values
 - *Securing our future*, using security systems, shatterproof film on glass windows and doors, and instructional technology
 - *Delivering Parkway's promise*
 - The community was part of defining priorities
 - Parkway is a good financial steward, rated AAA in the state
- The issue is about facilities, not salaries
- The bond issue will not increase your taxes
- It will fund capital improvements for the next 4 years
- Parkway has a tax rate in the bottom quartile in the state
- Michael urged us to vote Yes on November 6th, to register to vote and tell friends.
- Yard signs will be available, and volunteers will go out to remind folks to vote.
- 57% majority needed
- The PTO page has links and information on the issue
- Questions addressed:
 - What if it doesn't pass?

- Parkway would have a \$25 million hole in the budget, 10% of the regular budget, so projects would be delayed and budgets would be cut
 - Is it more than the bond issue we passed in 2014? Should we be worried about the increase?
 - Yes, it is larger. But maintenance costs have been rising. And Parkway's debt would be 3.6% of base, which is still conservative. We are allowed 15%.
 - Will there be another bond issue in 4 years?
 - Probably, in 4 to 6 years.
 - What about redistricting instead of expanding crowded schools?
 - That can be traumatic for the community, and the areas that have more children change over time. People also move to particular districts for the schools, such as Blue Ribbon Schools.
- West Middle gained from the last bond issue
 - Renovated/re-sized science rooms
 - Added a health classroom
 - Added instructional spaces for special education and other programs

Principal's Report: Annie Miller

- Conferences are coming up
- Sixth grade mixer is 10/19, planned by students. The theme is The City, and Math 6 students worked on it
- We are applying to be named a school of character in December
- Thank you for feeding the teachers at meetings

President's Report: Jenn Gibbs

Committee Reports/Upcoming Events

- Buzz Books: Friday is the last day to order. We've collected about \$1000 so far. Most orders came on Open House, others online.
- Fundraising:
 - Pancake Breakfast is Oct. 20th. Sign up by the 17th. We may reach out to feeder elementary schools and the football/cheer teams which have games that morning.
 - Jr. Longhorn Spirit Campaign has a goal of \$15,000. Donations can be made online or via check (paper form). Currently only \$1955, but the only notice has been in the Longhorn Way. We are going to put out a standalone notice.

- Jr. Longhorn Spirit Nights:
 - MOD pizza brought in ~\$100
 - 10/16 St. Louis Bread Co. on Manchester Rd. (4-8 pm)
 - 11/15 Menchie's
- Box Tops for Education: First collection date 10/12. Collection container in front of school.
- Spiritwear:
 - Next opportunities to purchase Spiritwear will be Conference Nights and the Pancake Breakfast
 - Need volunteers to help sell for conference nights and winter concerts
- Conference Dinners 10/18 and 10/25. We need volunteers to help serve/setup.
- Socials:
 - 6th grade 10/19
 - 7th and 8th grade 11/16. Save leftover homecoming snacks for it.
- Homecoming:
 - Big success! Over 200 people including parents
 - Raffle brought in \$85, covered costs
- Staff Appreciation:
 - Full schedule for donations is up on Sign Up Genius
 - Still need 3 more volunteers to help with Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week in May
- 7th Grade Cotillion
 - Classes begin 4/4
 - Registration begins after the holidays
 - Final event (dinner) is on May 4th

Treasurer's Report: Michael Bertz

- We have ~\$27,000 in the bank
- Basically in good shape for this point in the year

New Business: Jenn Gibbs

- Fundraising: We wanted to increase our amount raised because the PTO's balance has been going down the past few years.
- Top Golf fundraiser idea:
 - For whole families, not just parents
 - Top Golf requires 50% upfront

- What is the level of interest, considering these details?
 - Cost \$34/person. Includes soda, coffee, tea; cash bar
 - We would have a raffle, too.
 - They could run 2 tournaments, 1 for adults and 1 for children. They cost an extra \$10/person.
 - Ticket price would be \$65-\$75 per person to raise money.
- After discussion, the group concluded this would be too expensive for most families to choose to come.
- Other fundraising ideas: The group discussed trivia nights and casino/Monte Carlo nights. Many locations may be booked already in the spring. Members will look into these ideas.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, November 13th at 7 pm in the West Middle Library

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm by Jenn Gibbs

Minutes compiled by Mary Ellen Franciscus, Recording Secretary