

Parkway Northeast Middle School PTO
Minutes of PTO Meeting
February 18, 2016
To be approved at March 29th PTO Meeting

Principle's Report – Mr. Herndon and Ms. Rankin (ALEKS Account) in place of Dr. Bell

Gave presentation on ALEK's which is a math learning system for kids that meet a student at any level of math. It is used in conjunction with regular lessons. It helps students below grade level meet grade level expectations as well as gives those students at or above grade level challenges to move ahead to the next level. It gives the teachers data on where a student is (what he knows) as well as where a student needs help/improvement. It's interactive learning for the students. They can't move to the next level/subject until they master the current level. If they get problems wrong, they will learn what they did wrong and step by step how to solve that problem. A teacher can also see what/where the student is struggling and why he got a question wrong to pinpoint what they need to work on or explain more in class. The amount of data produced for teachers is invaluable for working with each child on an individual basis. There is a fee/child for each student account for the school year.

This program started out as an intervention tool for those students below grade level expectations in Math. Then this year, they rolled it out to all of 6th grade and are using it in every math class with every student in 6th grade. It's a good transition for those students coming from elementary school into middle school math. Since so many kids are at different levels coming to middle school from different elementary schools they have really seen improvements in learning levels in getting students at and above grade level expectations to move ahead and excel in math. They would like to get enough money to continue this for students in all grade levels. They have seen such improvements in student learning and math advancement that it would be idea for these students to continue the program in 7th grade and beyond.

Funding has been the toughest hurdle for this program so far. So far funding has come from various sources, and they are looking into grants and other options but would welcome additional sponsors to help offset the costs to offer this program to more students.

Officer's Report

- **President/Vice President** – *Kenyatta William/ Karen Cassara*
 - **Assistant Principal Position** - Dr. Bell will be posting a new Assistant Principal position for next year to replace Dr. Scott. This Assistant Principal will be for the incoming freshman and travel with them through 8th grade. Currently, 8th grade has an interim Assistant Principal for the remaining of the school year.
- **Secretary** – *Natalie Wolfman* – Minutes from last meeting will be approved at March meeting along with these minutes
- **Treasurer** - *Beth Graham* – Report approved
- **Committee Chairs**
 - **Purple Envelope** – Still looking for a chairperson to take over for next year. This is a perfect opportunity to help for a working or nonworking parent since it is done on your own time frame from home.
 - **SpiritWear** – Have some new things at the school store and reordered popular items.
- **PTO Bulletin Board** – By office

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(cont.)

- **Upcoming Dates:**

- Conferences March 10th
- Addams Family Play – Last week of February
- Rescheduled next PTO meeting from 3/17 to 3/29
- Last PTO meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – May 5th

Next Meeting – March 29th at 6:30 p.m.