

Approved PTO Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2014

Attendees: Sarah Makela, Lan Woolman, Maureen Jaimes, Angie Turnball, Kelly Burns, Jason Burns, Rachael Wilde, Gretchen Wright, Rhonda McCall, Sarah Scott, Shawna Walton, Leah Lundy, Ivonne Renderos-Rivas, Sandi Bone, Lisa Taylor, Marne Oyen

Introductions were made and the minutes from the December 3rd, 2013 PTO meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Our principal, Mrs. Erica Marson, was unable to attend our meeting. She had an Oversight Committee meeting on what to do with the funds from the option levy. The levy brought in \$3 million more money than expected. Erica is excited because she requested funds for an Interventionist for Kinder and 1st grade classrooms. This position would work with children who are struggling to make grade level. This position would also help with the overflow that occurred last year from oversized first grade classrooms. Additionally she is hoping to get an extra teacher for the 4th and 5th grade Walk to Math; which would help those students who are excelling and need extra challenges.

Sarah Scott, our Treasurer, was next on the agenda. She pointed out the PTO had received an \$800+ check from Box Tops. We also had a few expenses, the PTO paid for 2 assemblies and the Kinder field trips.

Leah Lundy, our Volunteer Coordinator, shared we had hit 4,380 volunteer hours YTD and 656 hours for the month of December. She also noted we do not have school on January 20th or 27th. Passport will be January 30th and Kinder will have their Big Rig day on January 30th. Valentine's Day parties are just around the corner on February 14th from 1:30-2:30. Please contact her if you are interested in volunteering for the parties. Fir Grove's day to volunteer at the Clothes Closet will be February 19th. This supports our local families and each school takes one day a month to run the closet. It will be open from 9:30-4pm and it is helpful if volunteers can work 2 hours shifts. Rachael Wilde is the contact person for this event: rachaelwilde@hotmail.com. Also noted, the Clothes Closet is always looking for help sorting through the clothes they receive. March 7th at 7:15am will be Doughnuts for Dudes. Corri Lee has been organizing this event for us and this will be her last year. We are looking for a new coordinator for this event, please contact Leah Lundy if you are interested. April 17th will be this year's Science Fair. We are in need of about 8 people to run the event, please contact Leah Lundy if you are interested. Lastly, Spring Conferences will be 4/9 & 4/10. Rhonda McCall will be coordinating the meals for teachers and looking for parents to donate dishes. If you would like to help, please contact Rhonda. One more note, don't forget to log your volunteer hours!!

Fundraising was next on the agenda; Ivonne Renderos-Rivas gave the update. Our Penny Drive will be April 7th through April 18th. The jugs will be in the Library and funds raised, up to \$1,000, will go to P.E. this year. If we are able to raise money above \$1,000, the extra will be given to the Tech room.

The President's update was next. We will be participating in a new program that is starting up entitled, Girls on the Run. This program helps girls train and run a 3K, while building their self-esteem. We will be pairing with the charter school, Arco Iris, located across the street at BCC. Girls in 3rd – 5th are eligible and registration will begin January 27th. Space is limited and the program tends to fill very fast. The fee is \$125-\$150 and there are scholarships available. Also practice will be twice a week. There will be one full-time coach and two part-time coaches.

Fir Grove is lucky enough to have a mom who manages the drive-thru Starbucks over in Cedar Hills. They were kind enough to donate some mugs and other items that we will be distributing to the teachers as an extra treat.

Fifth graders will be having a fundraiser for their send-off party on Tuesday at Pizzicato. Twenty percent of the day's sales will go to the 5th graders. If you missed this event there will be another a bit later in the year.

Art Lit is starting up a new unit with Romare Bearden. Children will be trying their hand with collage!

Labels for Education let us know we have 17,000 points to use. We will be looking through options to see what we can use. Box Tops will also be having another contest shortly.

There was no old business

New business was next up.

Mrs. Marson requested the PTO buy some new calculators for students. These will be used for testing and math. The cost will be approximately \$2,000. We will be voting on the calculators at the next PTO meeting.

Next up was a request from Sarah Makela for a buddy bench for the playground. There have been several articles in the news lately about the Buddy Bench. It allows a child who is in need of a friend to sit on the bench. When other children see someone sitting on the bench, it lets other children know they need a friend. Sarah is going to investigate the bench a bit more and will do a proposal so the PTO may vote on it.

There was a brief discussion about Mrs. Marson's idea of Mathport, a program to help children with math.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03

Next PTO meeting will be February 4th at 7:00pm