

Approved PTO Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2014

Attendees: Rachael Wilde, Gretchen Wright, Rhonda McCall, Sarah Scott, Leah Lundy, Sandi Bone, Sarah Makela, Erica Marson, Michelle King, Stacey Mueller, Ivonne Renderos-Rivas, Victoria Montebianco, Melissa Anderson, Natalene Aaberg, Marne Oyen

Introductions were made and the minutes from the March 4th, 2014 PTO meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Our principal, Mrs. Erica Marson, was first on the agenda. She noted that OAKS testing begins on Monday, April 7th for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Fir Grove will also have parent/teacher conferences after school on the 9th and all day on the 10th. There will be no school on the 10th and 11th. Conferences will be held in the Multi-purpose room and the gym.

Michelle King, former first grade teacher turned specialist teacher, was in attendance. She has been working with Mrs. Viegas, one of our new first grade teachers, who needs high interest books in her classroom to encourage reading and discussion among her kids. If you are interested in helping out, Mrs. Viegas has set up a page at DonorsChoose.org - a site for teachers to ask for donations. The following link will take you to her site: http://www.donorschoose.org/project/books-for-eager-beginning-readers/1187270/?utm_source=dc&utm_medium=proposal&utm_campaign=facebook&rf=facebook_siteshare_2014_03_teacherid_2153855 They are trying to raise \$569 and they have already reached just over \$300. Your donation is tax deductible too!

Sarah Scott was next on the agenda with a budget update. The cost of calculators the PTO voted to pay for ended up being less than anticipated. The final total was \$860. We also just finished paying for the assemblies. The total raised from selling boards for the Science Expo was \$202, and ribbons were purchased for awards. Another expense was the fifth graders field trip to the theater. 2nd graders will be going to the Forestry Center in May and the 3rd graders have scheduled their field trip in May as well. Finally we still have 15 teachers who have not yet spent their \$100.

Leah Lundy, our Volunteer Coordinator, shared that we had hit 7280 volunteer hours YTD and 777 hours for the month of March. She also noted some upcoming dates, the Penny drive will be April 7th-18th, Book Fair will be April 7th – 10th, Parent/Teacher conferences April 9th – 10th, no school April 10th, 11th and 25th.

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. The PTO is also looking for parents to donate staff treats the first Friday of the months of April and May. One more note, don't forget to log your volunteer hours!!

Fundraising was next on the agenda. 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.

Beaverton School District has put fliers up by the Fir Grove front office for the upcoming school bond measure; voting will be in May. The main point being that there will be no increase in taxes, this only replaces an existing bond. The school district is expecting an additional 5000+ students to the Beaverton area by 2025. Please spread the word and vote!

Our next PTO meeting is normally in the evening however it is being moved to the morning due to scheduling conflicts. This will be the meeting to vote in new officers. It was noted you can only nominate yourself for an office and you must first hold a prior PTO office to be eligible for PTO President.

5th graders had a successful McTeacher night and raised \$701.29 for their 5th grade send-off. Thank you to all who attended! The next event will be a Glow Dance night for 5th graders and their families. The goal this year was to help build a strong sense of community among 5th grade families with these events.

Final announcement, our music teacher Ms. Mohr got hitched; she is now Mrs. Collette! Stop in and wish her well, rumor has it she has pictures of her wedding with her too!

Next up were the committee updates.

Book Fair will be buy one get one free! The fair starts April 7th and runs until April 10th.

Science Fair update, we are working to ensure each child has 2 reviews by parents. Volunteers will be needed!

May 5th – 9th is teacher appreciation week! Rhonda McCall is looking for crafty parents willing to help out with a few surprises for our teachers.

It was mentioned that we will be losing several committee heads after this year and there are several spots available. We will be working to communicate this to parents to try and get new volunteers.

Rachael Wilde mentioned wanting to take a look at Fire up your Feet. A website that you log in your steps and students are eligible to earn money for their school. This is a non-profit organization.

Under old business, next up was a request that had been made by Sarah Makela for a buddy bench for the playground. The bench has been tabled for now due to complications on placement. We are hopeful we may be able to address this if the bond passes and Fir Grove receives new playground equipment.

Under new business, first item discussed was getting filtered water for teachers. After prolonged research and cost analysis a solution may have been found. There is a counter filter that is self cleaning that would cost \$700. Rhonda McCall also found a plumber willing to donate his time so the installation would be free. The PTO is hoping to cover the \$700 cost by selling Fir Grove water bottles. A vote for this project will take place at the next meeting.

Rachael Wilde and Lisa Taylor have been busy planting and using the greenhouse with the first grade classes. However Rachael has noted the greenhouse is in need of repair. Her and her husband would like to donate repairs. Mrs. Marson is checking on that possibility.

Sarah Makela noted that she will be the new Cub Scout coordinator. She was asking what things the school needed done that the cub scouts could help with. She was referred to John our janitor for a list of tasks.

Victoria Montebianco was next up and spoke a bit about 529 plans. She works for a non-profit company called, First Investors. She is available for questions regarding 529 plans and can be reached at Victoria.montebianco@firstinvestors.com.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm. Next PTO meeting will be May 6th at 8:10am