

Fischer PTA Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2023 7:00pm

Attendees: 27 / Start Time: 7:03

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome - Becca McCracken and Kristen Anderson

Board Introductions – Becca McCracken (co-president), Kristen Anderson (co-president), Rebecca Jamsen (vice president), Marion Nora (secretary), Heidi Rahn (VP school support), Amy Lippert (treasurer)

Spanish Liaison – (Becca McCracken) We do not currently have any native spanish-speaking executive board members and we would like to have a spanish-speaking liaison to translate materials and meetings, to be more inclusive of all families in our school. Anyone interested should contact the PTA.

Kindergarten meetup/school supply pickup – (Becca McCracken) A big thank you to those who helped plan and run the beginning of school activities/events- Yesenia Ochoa, Joey Arroyo, Heidi Rahn, Amanda Heffernan, Krisent Andersen, Tyler Phillips.

Purpose of PTA- (Kristen Anderson and Rebecca Jamsen) One of our goals is to increase the PTA membership. One way to get more people involved in the PTA is to reflect upon why “we PTA” and share this with parents we meet at events and at school. Our goal is 25% of the school parents to become PTA members.

PTA supply closet – (Kristen Anderson) Kristen and Dr. Martinez are going to go through the school to find a closet to store PTA supplies so we can get supplies out of various houses and paid storage unit.

Budget – (Amy Lippert) Amy reminded everyone to photograph all receipts when purchasing items for PTA events, since she cannot do a reimbursement check if there is no receipt. Please submit all reimbursement requests within 1 month of purchase. **Copies will not be reimbursed.** Amy can help out with copies and we can use the copy machine at school.

- Budget carefully, we cannot go over a budget allocated for an event without a vote.
- Welcome packet will be sent to all committee chairs with a reimbursement form.
- We made more income from yearbooks than anticipated.
- We have a goal to increase memberships so our projected income has increased. Projected income for 2023/2024 is \$13,555.

Motion to approve the budget was made, then seconded. All were in favor, budget passes.

Fundraising – (Becca McCracken) Mark Anglewicz volunteered to help Cyndi Sorrell with the Fundraising Committee. He would like to go directly to local businesses with sponsorship ideas and have them donate money in return for sponsorship opportunities at our events. Renee also volunteered to be a committee member for fundraising. First fundraiser: Eat n Earn at Kilwins, 8/30 pm. We also have a Chicago Wolves game on 11/12 planned for a fundraising event.

- Other fundraising idea: Dad's Club where dads get together for sports games or other events while raising money (idea from Lincoln Elementary).

Historian – (Becca McCracken) new PTA position. The historian would send a google form to committee chairs after events to recap events and keep track of what worked/what we can do differently next year. Would also keep track of pictures.

REACH – (Maribelle Vasvanont) REACH is the gifted program. They have not had a meeting yet, but traditionally meetings have been held during the day on ZOOM. Parent names haven't been shared so Maribelle cannot contact parents. Anyone who has questions about REACH can contact Maribelle.

SERG – (Kristen Anderson for Courtney Barcus) SERG is the special education group. There have been no SERG meetings yet but anyone who has questions can reach Courtney Barcus.

Book Fair – (Alma Carillo) the book fair will be **September 25 and 26**. The Sign up Genius has been created and Becca/Kristen will communicate it with parents. Students will get a free book in the fall and in the spring. Our school receives half the money we make during the school fair, in Scholastic dollars, to buy books for children and pay for the following Book Fair. There will be an additional opportunity to shop **after school on Tuesday 9/26**, just for books (no toys).

- If we take scholastic dollars we get 50% of what we make. If we were to choose the actual dollar amount we would only get 25% of what we make.

Red Ribbon Week – (Becca McCracken) October 23-27. We would like to do something with this theme (healthy choices) but do not have a committee yet. Topics should be thoughtful, sensitive, and age appropriate. If someone wants to head the committee we can look at planning something. Other schools do something to celebrate that week, Heidi Rahn volunteers to contact the district to see what they do.

DPAC – (Natalie Escamilla). The first DPAC meeting is 9/28 and will be a meet and greet, then will go over audit results. This next month the meeting will be about the transition to middle school. Emails will be sent out to get parent feedback.

Hispanic Heritage Month – (Sept 15- Oct 15) We are looking to possibly have an event organized by Melissa White, Natalie Escamilla, and Meghan with a picnic, music, and focus on school beautification (this needs to be added to the budget, currently blank).

Fall Fest – (Heidi Rahn and Kim McCarthy) October 27. Trick or treating candy in hallways, we will ask for donations of time/candy/decorating. We will have themed tables again. This is another opportunity for businesses to participate and sponsor/donate money. We are looking for a volunteer to plan a “spooky walk”- if anyone would like to help plan that, please reach out.

Paint & Pour Event – (Becca McCracken) We are looking for someone to organize a small event at Pinot’s Palette for a Paint & Pour event or another opportunity for parents to get together in a casual way. We discussed doing it at Brewpoint but reserving the back room would be too pricey.

Communications Chair– (Becca McCracken) New PTA position. We are looking for someone to be the point person for all of our communication (Social Media: Cyndi Sorrell, Website: Marion Nora). More communication is also needed about Directory Spot because a lot of parents don’t know what it is and that it’s a perk of joining the PTA (free for PTA members).

Website – (Kristen Anderson) Marion has updated the PTA website to reflect this year’s dates and will translate content + minutes to spanish.

Membership– (Yesenia Ochoa) We currently have 46 members, this is Yesenia’s last year so we will need another membership chair next year.

National Custodian Appreciation Day – 9/29 We would like to appreciate and acknowledge our custodians. Students can create cards and we could bring in balloons. Renee volunteers to coordinate.

Stock the Lounge + Amazon Teacher Lists – (Heidi Rahn) All donation-based and the sign-up genius is posted in the Parent square newsletters. Items from Amazon teacher lists get shipped directly to teachers.

Principal’s Report – (Dr. Martinez)

- We have a new behavior system with Panther Bucks for good behavior. The expectations:

R- respectful

O- organized

A- accountable

R- reflective

Teachers will teach lessons to teach these social emotional skills and students will earn Panther Bucks for positive behaviors. Teachers received budgets to buy prizes. Students earn panther bucks to redeem and they can save them for bigger prizes. This is all for positive reinforcement, no money gets taken away by teachers. "When we do good things, good things happen."

- MAP testing: Students in the dual language program will only be tested in their dominant language (determined by test scores in the prior year). This is because testing is very time-intensive. LASNIK is the test that dual language students will take to test knowledge in non-dominant language (twice a year). The school will not be offering tutoring.
- Fischer calendar: we can add the Fischer calendar by clicking on the link at the end of parent square emails.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:25pm