

MINUTES

Towanda Elementary

9/12/2022

In Attendance

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Lyndsay Sellitto | Kristine Koerner | Naomi Arndt | Michelle Panizzi | Heather Fermon |
| Brandi Rockwell | Marlys Bennington | Lisa Heaser | Susan Steinbach | Stacie Lange |
| Rebecca Leman | Sarah Mosby | Lynda Mitchell | Megan Weber | Tiffany Nord |
| Hailey Morey | Heather Latimer | | | |

Update from Mrs. Bennington

- Thank you to everyone for your warm welcome. It's been a great start to the year! We are enjoying getting to know your children!
- Check out the Towanda Times newsletter for August & September (sent through Infinite Campus email).
- 5th grade leaders/advisory board are doing great work helping with a variety of jobs.
- Themed spirit days will be happening September 23rd, 26th -30th to coincide with the Homecoming weeks.
- We continue to focus on lunchroom behavior that makes for a fun, respectful lunch for all. Talk with your child(ren) about voice levels that are appropriate for dining with friends and family. We want them to use a Voice Level 1, which is between a talk and a whisper. Thanks for your help with this.

Budget

- Naomi presented 2022-2023 PTO budget.
 - o Historical approach has been to base current year budget on results from prior 2 years. Covid makes this approach more difficult than usual since we haven't seen "typical" years. We made best estimates for line items on the budget and will adjust as needed throughout the year.
- Great news is we started the school year with approximately \$13.5K, so we are in great shape to meet the PTO needs. Thanks to all for shopping the book sale and donating to the walk-a-thon last year!
 - 8/2/2022 Balance: \$13,566.48
 - Income: 1,454,.65
 - Expenses: (609.83)
 - 9/11/2022 Balance: \$14,411,30
- State Farm & Country Financial parents: Please consider/remember the Matching Gift programs. We received \$670 from matching gift donations for the walk-a-thon alone last year
- State Farm donates \$500 to a non-profit for every SF employee who volunteers 40 hours during a calendar year at that organization. Attending PTO meetings & room parent activities count towards the 40 hours. Last year we earned 1,500 in SF grants this way. The 40 hours can be earned on either an

individual or team basis. Kristine Koerner to coordinate the team approach. Reach out to Kristine if you work at State Farm and have any volunteer hours with the school/PTO or if you have questions.

- Discussed budgeting birthday gifts for the 29 staff members who support our students but don't receive a "teacher" gift coordinated by the room parents each year. Details are still being decided, but PTO will provide a gift/gift card to recognize birthdays for these individuals.
- We will create a form to distribute to teachers for grants. We do include teacher grants in the budget. This gives teachers an opportunity to request a bigger wish list item & PTO will do our best to honor requests. An example of one of these bigger wish list items would be the rug that PTO provided to IMC earlier this year.

Dine to Donate – Culvers 9/15/2022 from 4-8:00

- Heather has been busy setting these up. Check the PTO Facebook page for upcoming event details.
- Flyers for each event should come home with your child as we get close to the dates
- Discussed Iron Coyote as a possible event for January. We will receive only a 10% return but there is no cost to PTO to set up an event so consensus is to move forward with the event
- December will not have a DTD. Possibly do Crumbl or Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser instead

Character Gram Store

- Heather coordinating. Initial budget is \$600, but we recognize this might increase as the year moves on
 - o First store will be 9/27/22 during recess.
 - Heather & Brandi will work first store, and a SignUp Genius will go out for additional volunteers.
 - 2 tables will be set up by the recess doors and each class will have a chance to shop

General

- Discussed possible long-term fundraising opportunities
 - o Initial idea of inclusive playground equipment/areas that would allow all children to participate freely in recess. Maybe a walking path/sensory area. Additional ideas are welcome from all.
- Michelle will create a flyer to send home that discusses ongoing fundraising items (Amazon smile, Kroger). Mrs. Bennington will also provide this information in the next newsletter.
- Scrip email coming soon. Naomi to coordinate & will let parents know this is a monthly opportunity.
- We will send out an "UnRaiser" letter this year. Timing should be September/October.
- The Ice Cream Social was well received. Consensus is more events like this in the future would be welcomed. Will discuss ideas next month. We made \$150 in profit from this event as well.
- Donuts at Drop off was not well received. Evaluate for next year and either eliminate or rethink setup.
- Picture Day is 9/20. 2 volunteers are requested. Michelle, Tiffany & Lyndsay will schedule time to help
- Snacks are allowed at classroom parties this year. Be mindful of classroom allergies. Must be individually wrapped and not homemade. Ingredient list is required for school nurse to review.
- SignUp Genius will be going out for monthly teacher appreciation. Details will be provided but we are looking for volunteers to choose a month and coordinate a gift for the teachers. A budget will be provided for those who volunteer. August teacher appreciation was ice cream floats. September will be coordinated by Megan & Kristine.

- Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Michelle Panizzi and Jay Verner have volunteered to be our 2 representatives. The CAC meets throughout the year and discusses topics related to the school district.
- Next year consider moving the room parent sign-up sheets to the PTO table at Back to School Night.

Next Meeting

Monday, October 3rd at 6:00 p.m.