

MINUTES

Towanda Elementary

10/3/2022

In Attendance

Naomi Arndt, Michelle Panizzi, Darcy Davis, Tiffany Nord, Marlys Bennington, Brandi Rockwell, Chelsea Dauenbaugh, Andi Sarff, Barry Hitchins, Kristine Koerner, Megan Weber, Heather Fermon

Principal's Report-Mrs. Bennington

- Thanks to the PTO for the September Treat for teachers and staff
- Spirit week was a success and lots of fun! Thanks to all who participated! We love to see that school spirit.
- Evacuation Drill – The students and staff did an amazing job! This was the first time the students were transported to Eastview. If there was a real emergency, this is our evacuation and reunification site.
- No school, Monday, October 10th, for Indigenous People's Day.
- Dine to Donate, Thursday, October 13th, Chuck E Cheese, from 3:00-9:00pm.
- Picture retake scheduled for October 25th in the morning
- Early release, 10:45 am, October 26th
- Classroom parties, October 28th 1:30 to 2:30. Weather permitting, student costume parade line up at 1:00 pm.

Treasurer Report-Naomi Arndt

- Naomi reported that September is the largest month for expenses as money is provided to each teacher for their classrooms.
- Beginning Balance was \$14,410.79. Total Income for month was \$1603.08, Total Expenses was \$7080.35. Ending Balance for month \$8,933.52

Agenda Items

- Script Card
 - orders will be due next week.
- Staff Appreciation
 - Naomi indicated October would be bagels on a Tuesday. She will email Mrs. Bennington specific date so that staff can be informed.
 - Olive Garden has offered to donate lunch for a staff appreciation day.
- Character Gram Store
 - Heather reported that first event went well although a few classes had to attend during class time. It's believed that each store day will move faster as this is the first time that 3 of the grades were able to attend one and new parents coordinating event. Feed back overall was very positive. Short discussion after PTO as to what we can do to improve and brainstorm ideas.
- Fundraising Sheet

- Sheet was sent home with students of different ways parents can donate/fundraise for school.
- Feed back has been this was helpful.
- Referendum Presentation
 - Board of Education president Barry Hitchins gave a short presentation on the upcoming Referendum
 - Factual information can be found on Unit 5's website:
 - [Referendum Information / Referendum Information \(unit5.org\)](http://unit5.org)
 - Want to help? Pro-referendum Community Group on Facebook called Vote Yes for Unit 5
- Teacher Grants
 - Naomi reported that she received 4 requests. All 4 requests were approved by the PTO attendees.
- Dine to Donate
 - Heather reported the Culver's Dine to donate was very successful. Culver's management stated that it was one of their best and indicated they would be happy to partner with anytime in the future. They also donated free tokens to be given away. Heather will provide some to Mrs. Bennington to use as she wishes for the students.
 - Next event is Thursday, October 13th at Chuck E Cheese. Heather will provide a flyer to Mrs. Drew so that it can be sent home with students closer to the event. The flyer has coupons for families to use during the event.
- Unraiser Letter
 - Michelle provided a copy of sample letter to the group for thoughts/approval. Everyone thought it looked great, so letter will come home with students soon.
- Staff Birthdays
 - Teachers are typically provided birthday gifts from the Room Parents
 - Each staff member will receive a birthday card, \$10 gift card (purchased through Script) and a chocolate bar.
 - September birthdays are taken care of, and October will be soon.
 - Naomi will continue to take care of these.
- Sam's Club
 - Sam's Club will no longer accept the tax-free exemption without its own membership. Naomi did some price comparison on commonly purchased items and Sam's Club was the cheapest and had needed inventory. It was decided to purchase a membership when there was a gift card type incentive. If that does not work out, Darcy Davis also volunteered to donate the funds as well to purchase a membership.
- Halloween class parties
 - Friday, October 28th from 1:30 to 2:30.
 - Weather permitting, costume parade will line up at 1:00 pm outside.
 - Parents volunteers can attend class parties this year. Reach out to your room parents
- Deck the Halls
 - Scheduled for November 29th.
 - Michelle and Lyndsay planning
 - New addition to event is a card making table. Students can make cards that can be delivered to nursing homes. Michelle can deliver. Megan Weber also volunteered to deliver it needed.
- Playground Equipment Fundraising
 - Group agreed this is something they would like to proceed with.
 - Darcy Davis volunteered to research some options and prices

- Used Book Sale
 - Skipped due time restraints
- Walk-A-Thon
 - Skipped due to time restraints
- Social Events
 - Previous meeting Michelle asked the group to brainstorm ideas for family events to hold in future
 - Suggestions were Family Movie Night
 - Free movie for families and possible concession stand to fundraise for PTO
 - Rent out movie theatre
 - Volunteer at Midwest Food Bank
 - They do allow children as young as 6 to volunteer

Next Meeting

November 14th, 6:00 pm, Towanda Elementary