

MINUTES

Towanda Elementary

1/9/2023

Mrs. Bennington (sent notes in via email as not in attendance)

- Thank you for making the week before break so special for all of us! We enjoyed the surprise gifts each day, and each gift was so thoughtful!! You are truly so good to us!
- I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your families and friends!
- As I shared in an email to families, I had foot surgery over break and plan to return on Thursday, January 19th. I will return with crutches and a knee scooter. Ms. Jara Hendren is filling in for me while I am gone. If you have any questions or need anything, you may contact her at (309)557-4426, or at hendrej@unit5.org. I look forward to seeing you all soon!
- Welcome to Ms. Parsons, our new 4th grade teacher!
- Important Dates
 - o January 9th 6:00pm - PTO Meeting
 - o January 16th No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - o January 25th Final Copies of Young Author Books Due to the Office
 - o January 31st 10:45am - Early Release Day
- Yearbooks - Orders are due by February 3rd
- Inclement Weather/e-Learning Days - Be watching the weather and announcements from Unit 5 about any e-Learning days and have your child logged onto their device and ready to learn. Thank you for your help with this, should we have any e-Learning days.
- Please continue to reinforce our weekly math vocabulary words. Students will see these throughout the year in instruction and on assessments.

Naomi – Treasurer Update

- Balance

o Beginning 12/5/2022:	8,986.50
Inflows:	7,189.94
Outflows:	(3,933.79)
Ending 1/9/2023	12,242.65
- \$3,000 of the monthly inflow will be reserved for the Accessible Playground funds. One of our Towanda families donated this money specifically for the playground. With the \$3,000 State Farm Matching funds we will receive from this contribution we are off to a great start with this fundraising.
- We have underspent on budget so far this year. For the school year Dine to Donates have raised \$900, SCRIP has raised \$460, Amazon Smile raised \$155, and UnRaiser raised \$2,200.
- There will be a pancake breakfast hosted by the Towanda Boy Scouts in the school cafeteria on 2/11 from 7-1:00 pm. In the past PTO did a basket raffle but we decided to do 50/50 this year as it's much less work. Naomi is handling the paperwork for the 50/50. Form will need notarized with 3 signatures. Heather will create a sign-up genius for volunteers. Will need volunteers to sell tickets during the

event. 1-hour shifts. Michelle will set up morning of and Naomi will close it out. Plan is to draw the winning ticket at 12:30. Naomi checking to see if there is a Facebook event will can share.

Heather – Character Gram Stores/Dine to Donates

- Iron Coyote suggested parents/teachers run stations at the Dine to Donate event. As this is our first year and we are not sure of turnout the group decided to let the kids free play. Reevaluate next year.
- There was some confusion from teachers on the forms/clipboard process for tracking at the December store. Heather will send email to clarify in future & again provide an item/price list beforehand.
 - o Next year think about having more sessions a month or alternating classes every other month. There are more classes than in the past and it's a lot of kids to get through the store in a short time. Maybe offer less choices next year? Might move kids through faster. The kids seem to enjoy the raffles but also think about moving raffles to just end of year. Learning curve this year as this is the first year this group is leading Character Gram stores.

General

- Staff Appreciation. All months are signed up. Thanks to all volunteers. Please reach out to Naomi for tax exemption letter if you would like to get reimbursed for purchases.
- Teacher Grants – Mrs. Bennington submitted a request for a Little Free Library which was approved.
- Accessible Playground. Sarah had some ideas for possible grants/fundraising opportunities. The initial thought is still to start with a concrete path to/around the playground and then add play stations/areas as we can.
- Go-fer list was posted to Facebook. Hailey is point person.
- Used Book Sale will be 3/17 for students and public sale will be 3/18. We will set up on the evening of 3/16 in the gym. In February we will get addresses for drop off locations in neighborhoods. Worked well last year. Will try to find a time for teachers to shop. Maybe before school on the 17th. We will provide Mrs. Bennington with free book tickets to distribute to students beforehand. Goal is for all students to be able to get a book if they want one. Will discuss advertising next month.
- Walk-A-Thon. May 5th is tentative date. Will confirm with Mrs. Bennington.
- Spring Family Fun Night will probably be in April. Michelle will look for a date. Ideas include a 50/50, Kona Ice, popcorn, kickball, chalk, bubbles.
- Electronics Raffle is ongoing and items can be brought to school and put in collection box.

In Attendance

Lyndsay Sellitto
Megan Ketelsen
Erica Raycraft
Naomi Arndt
Heather Fermon
Michelle Panizzi
Sarah Nix

Next Meeting

Monday, February 6^h & 6:00 p.m.