

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

Jan. 15, 2019

Present

Dawn Keech	Karen Hulsebus	
Nathan Richards	Katie Loomis	
Jason Prince	Keli Gase	<u>Nadiya Ramlawi</u>
Shannon Ellis	Rachel Brichta	Ms. Shakarian
Kelly Pfeifer	Brian Brichta	Ms. Hooppaw
Peri Stone-Palmquist	Denise Cevalier	Ms. Lauer
Aaron Kraft	Jen Lill	
Melanie Bale	Melissa Kierdorf	

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Dawn Keech

Introductions

Teacher Presentation – Melissa Villanueva and Shannon Lauer - 3rd grade

- Closing circle is part of a bigger idea called responsive classroom to help students with intrinsic motivation to want to be active learners. At morning meeting, we sit in a circle, have a greeting and some activities. Closing circle is a nice way to cap the day with team building, a way to reflect on the day, a way to norm and calm. One way is 3 As (appreciation, Aha's, Apologies). A video was shown demonstrating a classroom-closing circle. Another strategy is talk about the good, bad and funny parts of their day.

PTO Thrift Shop Report - Kim Lazarz

- Kim, board chair: Thrift Shop has been around 25 years. Support all 33 schools in district (17,000 students). Donated items are sold and profits are given to schools. When we do well, you all do well. Initially, all volunteers. Now, we have 31 employees. May start asking donors to sort donations.

- Two years ago we lost \$90,000 in profit in one year; \$75,000 a year ago (people thrift less when economy improves).

- There was \$800,000 in the bank for a new building but instead it went to the district's transportation fund.

- We had done away with "show your support," but that affected sales, so we brought it back and have seen an increase in sales.

- We get \$50 for every email we sent with PTO Thrift Shop (up to \$1,000). Raffle brings in 100% of \$5. Show Your Support - 2 chances to split \$1,500. Every \$5 = 1 vote. Proposal - You can earn \$250 between March and June if you work 40 hours at the shop.

Principal's Report

- Feb. 11 is the annual NAAPID (National African-American Parent Involvement Day). Meant to be welcoming for all parents / grandparents to visit the school.

- Feb. 15 - we may or may not have a day off. May not know until Feb. 12. Parents should plan for others. Depends on whether there is a May election. It's a district decision.

- Feb. 18 - no school

- 4th/5th grade letter on social media was sent home by Ms. Shakarian. We have started to hearing about TicToc (formerly Musicly). Some kids are on (although they are not old enough to be on it). Students videotape themselves and the videos are often public (not on private setting). Principal would get involved if there is cyber-bullying or something really inappropriate is shared that impacts the school day. More and more kids have their own cell phones, more kids are downloading social media apps. This is a new issue here. Students reported to school that when someone directly messages them inappropriate messages on Fortnite, they block that person. Ms. Shakarian spoke to each class. There is no class here on social media but media specialists do talk to students about how to be good digital citizens. Parents are encouraged to ask about it, carefully monitor social media use. (Dawn noted that we are looking at bringing in a special speaker to PTO on this topic.)

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Winter Swap

- Katie Loomis noted that there was not a lot of traffic the night of the Fall Fest. But boxes were left at school after and most of the items were taken. Noon hour staff took things to have items on hand for students who forget items.

March is Reading Month

- Katie Loomis secured a speaker for our assembly. Paleo Joe, a paleontologist, who has written books. He will do 2 presentations. \$500. A book order form will go home in February. He will autograph them and bring the day of. \$8 book. March 22 afternoon. He needs two six-foot tables.

PTOC (Rachel Brichta)

- Dec. 10 meeting was about Ann Arbor Schools of Excellence. Discussed mindfulness being implemented from the district. District-wide playground updates. There was discussion about world language. Elementary world languages will be growing. Allen, Mitchell and Carpenter have added Arabic. Commitment to arts was discussed. A2Virtual - 300 online classes available.
- Next meeting is Jan. 28 (Monday) at Westerman Preschool Center on Boardwalk. It will focus on social media and bullying.

Penguin Patch (Kelli Gase)

- \$2200 in sales (5% off). Went very smoothly. Talked about having fewer students at a time next year. There was parent concern about the stigma. Talked about reinstituting giving each class \$10 to give to students in need. We also talked about better stocking the free table. Discussed pros and cons of doing on our own versus using Penguin Patch. We could do branded items. Jen will look into inventory apps. Kelli will think about it.

Ice Cream Social (Kelly Pfeifer)

- We'll have our first committee meeting next month. We will probably have 3 meetings. Games, silent auction,
- We will need help coordinating food, ticket sales, getting sponsors for the event.
- We will put something in Monday Message.
- June 7 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

School Directory(Kelly Pfeifer)

- We learned this was a big administrative for school staff. We were trying to come up with an idea to do this without involving staff. One idea was to create a Google form, allowing people to opt in. Jen said she could create a web form that would dump into a directory on our PTO site. She will explore options.

President's Report (Dawn Keech)

- Thanked Rachel for taking on the role of PTOC rep.
- PTO was getting requests for Teacher Grants that exceeded the amount we had allocated. PTO Board had concerns about equity.
- There was a request for headphones from one teacher, but we learned this is a concern throughout the school. We would prefer to spend the extra money we have on the whole school, so we decided to purchase headphones for all classrooms. Discussion that this will need to be a permanent line item. We identified \$800 in the budget (due to under-spending in the fall). Dawn got 40 headphones donated. We would like to track their longevity.
- The big question coming out of this is how do we handle requests that exceed grant amount. Talked about drafting a policy to help guide these decisions. Key points include asking for receipts within 30 days, having a mid-year check that asks teachers/staff to reserve any remaining grant funds. Ms. Hooppaw will seek feedback from teachers.

Other

- Scholastic - balance is \$3300
- Holiday Project - 47 families (127 kids) received 412 books!!!!

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- Winter Dance is Feb. 1.
- 4-8 p.m. - MLK Day - Chipotle - we get 30%
- Restaurant revenue is \$900 less than last year, but we have some big ones still coming in (Noodles and Chipotles).

Approval of minutes from October and November meetings, as well as one December email vote and December board phone meeting.

- Motion by Kelly Pfiefer with a friendly amendment to retitle and correct spellings of names, seconded by Jen Lill. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Nathan Richards)

- Expenditures - we have been under budget for many items. Teachers are taking advantage of field trips.
- Revenue. Restaurant nights have come under budget, as noted. We have received some Facebook donations. 5th grade camp is nearly what we have budgeted, so that will likely exceed our budget.
- Noted we have \$300 we can spend on Paleo Joe books as part of March is Reading Month. Could go to classrooms or library. Heather will get feedback.
- Noted that there is finally an Amazon Smile app now!

Other

- Carol noted that next year is our 75th birthday. Ms. Avenall is working on an art project.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.