

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2019

Present

Dawn Keech

Nathan Richards

Jason Prince

Peri Stone-Palmquist

Aaron Kraft

Karen Hulsebus

Kelli Gase

Krysta December

Joy Knoblauch

Jeff Irwin

Katie Loomis

Melanie Bale

Rachel Brichta

Denise Chevalier

Nadiya Ramlawi

Ms. Hooppaw

Ms. Villanueva

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Dawn Keech

Introductions

Special Guest

Robin Batten, Cyber Safety Program Coordinator for the Washtenaw Area Council for Children.

Elementary classroom workshops are available. (Try not to do assemblies.) We can do 15-20 workshops a week.

- Teen - 53 hours a week using technology
- 92% of teens go online daily.
- Cyber bullying is repetitive behavior. Defined as tormenting, threatening, harassing or embarrassing another person using the Internet or other technology. Chances are it's also happening in person. We now have 24-7 bullying. Elementary students are more vulnerable to cyber bullying. Older youth can do a lot of trash talking of younger students on gaming platforms.
 - Impact is low self-esteem, withdrawal, guarding their devices, missing school, self-harm (there are actual web sites that teach you how to self harm and hide it), change in personality.
 - Tips - end communication with bullies, do not respond, block, save the evidence, report to a trusted adult, be careful of information they share, protect their online space (privacy settings), take breaks, set up new accounts.
 - When it's happening to peers: Don't join in (don't hit like, share it, making a comment), don't be a bystander, report for the victim (teach them how to report), be a friend (check in with a friend).
 - The law prohibits a person from contacting another individual with the intent to frighten or harass; using a computer to stalk; posting embarrassing or personal information without information (kids were using Dropbox to post embarrassing photos, creating fake accounts, using Google docs). Youth have been sued.
 - Teach kids not to share personal information about your own household (where you go to school, where you live, phone number, where you bank)
 - Matt's Safe School Law -- every school must have an anti-bullying policy (includes cyber bullying). You can be disciplined at school for things done at home.
- Sexting - May have seen something as early as 3rd and 4th graders, although they are not necessarily participating. Important to teach students to not share sexually explicit images, email / social media passwords. Elementary students have participated in this, so the conversations need to start early.
- Online predators - adult online users who seek to exploit vulnerable children or adolescents for sexual or other abusive purposes. A predator might "groom" children, build trust, give gifts, turn you against your family and friends, talk about inappropriate things, blackmail. Teach students not share personal information, use privacy settings, only accept friends they know in real life and never meet up with online friends they don't know. Stress that they can come to us, even if they broke the rules (swearing online, on Facebook when they weren't supposed to). Signs to look for include receiving gifts, calls from strange people, spending a lot of time online, withdrawing, becoming upset when they cannot use the computer, switch or close screens when

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a parent enters, computer history has been cleared. Sites to watch for include Omegle. Chatroulette.

- Do not share your IP address.
- Secret apps. Check their phones. Click on apps. If there are two calculators, that is a red flag. Ask your kids for the password.
- Digital Reputation - 92% of US employers use social media to screen candidates. What you post can effect college admissions / scholarships. "Grandma Rule" - if you don't want your Grandma to see or hear it, don't put it online.
- Protecting personal information - use different passwords, limit geotagging, check privacy settings, use secure sites, don't share passwords.
- Content filters / parental control on Google Play, Apple, gaming console, YouTube, etc.
- Teach students not to share their phones with friends (very risky).
- Other helpful tips: talk to your kids about their online activity, set clear limits / household rules about what is OK to share, parental controls, check their devices, choosing online friends, privacy settings, know how to use technology, keep the computer in an open area, screen names, passwords & personal information, tell an adult if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

PTO Business / Open Discussion

- We still have a few open spots on PTO next year. We will continue to update on Monday Message. We encourage folks to recruit. Asked Ms. Hooppaw to reach out to K-2 teachers to recruit.
- **Motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Katie Loomis made the motion / Nate seconded. Motion carried.**
- Today is Dawn's last official meeting. She thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Budget Matters (Dawn Keech)

- **Nate made a motion to allocate up to \$300 for a special education field trip to Denny's. Aaron seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Dawn made a motion to allocate up to \$305 for education planners for next year. Peri seconded. Motion carried.** Note that this should be an annual expense budgeted, just as want to budget for replacement headphones annually next year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.