

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6 PM by Aaron Kraft

Present

Aaron Kraft	Iman Jawhar	Marj Lamoreaux
Amy Newell	Jason and Marianne Crispell	Melanie Bale
Angelique (Bochenek)	Jason Prince	Nathan Richards
Tumpkin	Jeff Irwin	Nick Molen
Aster Banta	Jen Duman	Patricia Memmott
Chiara Hensley	Jenn Bjurnan	Penny Kemp
Dawn Keech	Jenn Lill	Peri Stone-Palmquist
Deekshitha	Karen Hulsebus	Sean Hensley
Diana Cass	Katie Daum-Bost	Srinivas Inti
Edwin Johnson	Katie Loomis	Stephanie Riegle
Elizabeth Gawel	Kelly Pfeifer	Steve Kemp
Fran Steele	Keri Mose	Yasic Faris
Ian Daum-Bost	Kerry Meggison	
	Lindsey Wolfe	

Introductions

Participants introduced themselves to a neighbor and shared a memory from elementary school.

Teacher Presentation - Elizabeth Torrey (Title I), Jen Duman (1st), Melissa Villanueva (3rd)

- Four teachers attended a conference, Literacy Footprints, this summer. Thanked the PTO for helping fund this
- You may have grown up having everyone read from a reader, same pace. But now research shows that it works best if students learn at their "just right" level.
- Components include read aloud, independent reading / writing, word study, guided reading (teacher meets with small group to support them in reading a challenging text), etc.
- PTO bought a guided reading books for 3rd grade. The books are leveled, sequential, variety of genre. You can't tell the difference between levels.
- We are a school-wide Title I building (versus targeted), which means our Title I dollars can now be used for all students in the building (not just those who qualify).
- We added a full-time Literacy teacher to the building. She is working with K-2 grades and sharing her literacy expertise with teachers. She will also do small group work with students.

Principal's Report and Meet the New Teachers

- Thanks to PTO for Popsicles on the Playground.
- We are building the Pittsfield of my dreams.
- 11 students in our new Young 5s.
- Recommends the Third Teacher book.
- Bond paying for new furniture that should inspire more movement and choice.
- Reminder about Curriculum Night next week.
- Project Lead the Way is returning for fall semester - January. She will complete 2 sessions of STEM (science, technology, math) per grade. Starts in a week or so.
- Early release days end at 1:29 p.m. (buses will run, lunch will be served) - Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Jan. 31, Feb. 28, May 23 (questions about childcare and bus schedule will be checked into)
- New report cards that have been worked on for awhile. Very different than before. It will be talked about at the curriculum night. No more letters. There will be a 4 point rubric.

President's Report

Aaron Kraft / Dawn Keech

- We want everyone to feel welcome. Your opinion matters.
- 3 by 5 cards - Please write down what you'd like to be covered at a future PTO meeting.
- Whole Foods gift cards available.

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2017

- We will have dinner at all the meetings. It's free, but if you want to donate, you can.
- Please sign in when you get here.
- Facebook Live is still happening.
- We have lots of open positions: hospitality, dinners for PTO, Science Olympiad (grades 2-5) coordinator, Science Olympiad coaches, Ice Cream Social co-chairs, fall fest maze build, winter dance coordinator, 5th grade camp coordinator
- **Elect Dawn Keech co-president and Jeff Irwin as vice-president. Motion made by Lindsey Wolfe, seconded by Kate Daum-Bost. Motion carried.**
- Restaurant nights - keep an eye open.
- Lindsey Wolfe makes amazing bulletin board. Thanks!
- Student Family Resource Coordinator is Peri.
- Benches for Ms. Babcock will be installed soon.
- Pittsfield Garden - need new point person
- Scholastic Book fair - Amanda Saffian is doing book fair. Will have Amanda give recommendations back on how to spend \$ and what is needed to continue birthday book project.
- Merchandising more to come.
- Invite to after-party

Holiday Shop (Lindsey Wolfe)

It was run last year by a parent who moved out of state. We would need someone in charge. There is a penalty if we cancel after a certain date. Melanie Bale volunteered to do lead it.

Fun Run (Fran Steele)

Goal is \$6,500. These funds are to support classroom, field trips, fun things for students. Actual event is during the work day. Students really enjoy it. We may need some volunteers.

Approve Minutes from May and August meetings. Motion to approve by Jeff Irwin, seconded by Lindsey Wolfe. Motion passes with all in favor.

Break

Treasurer's Report (Nathan Richards)

- Discussed budget. Expecting \$28,451 in income. Plan to spend \$43,080. But this is planned due to past funds. Increased garden budget - wanted to keep the momentum going. Title I reading kits are new. Income from Pittsfield PTO Thrift Shop will go down. Teacher grants are what they have been in the past (although less than last year, when we bumped up temporarily due to surplus funds). (More detail available in August minutes.)
 - Kerry noted that we should budget even less from PTO. Fundraising will be important.
 - Jeff discussed option of poker night fundraiser. Would take time but allow us to raise money without going to the same people. Several people volunteered. 4 nights 4 p.m.-2 a.m. (40 hours). Jeff will start paperwork.
 - **Amend expected income in the budget from PTO Thrift Shop from \$1,500 (from \$4,000) - Motion made by Lindsey Wolfe, seconded by Jeff Irwin. Motion carries.**
 - **Approve budget - Motion made by Jeff Irwin, seconded by Katie Loomis. Motion carries.**

PTO Thrift Shop

Candace Cackowski - We have until Nov. 8 to sell raffle tickets (\$5 each). Request for flyer. Aaron will help sell on Curriculum Night.

Student Presentation

Cora Keech, Annika Richards, Sylvia Irwin with help from parent Dawn Keech

- Talked about playgrounds are important. We request new playground equipment.

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2017

- Students had heard there was going to be playground equipment and was disappointed that there was not.

Open Discussion

- Playground committee is waiting for a response. Goal is next summer.
- Compliments on info sheet.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.