

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

Jan. 16, 2017

Present

Aaron Kraft
Diana Cass
Carol Shakarian
Jenn Lill

Karen Hulsebus
Katie Loomis
Jeff Irwin
Lindsey Wolfe
Patricia Memmott

Peri Stone-Palmquist
Zoe Pehrson
Ms. Avenall
Ms. Villaneuva

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Aaron Kraft

Introductions

Former Student Presentation – Josh Carlson

- Josh is a Pittsfield grad and is now a 9th grader at Huron High School. He is an Eagle Scout and his project will be to build an ADA accessible gaga pit on the playground. Gaga is an Israeli dodgeball game where players attempt to hit players below the knees. The rules are designed for safety. It could be moved if it had to, but it would be better to find a longer term home. There will be a plaque with rules posted. The troop hit the \$2,000 goal to build the gaga pit. There are stretch goals to make it longer lasting. Hope is to raise another \$1,000. There is a Go Fund Me link with a deadline of May. Goal is to have it done by the Ice Cream Social. Ms. Shakarian will find out if there are rules about treated lumber and need for permits.

Teacher Presentations – Shannon Lauer

- Native American on-site field trip happened today. Shared photos.
- Demonstrated a brand new literacy app called Lexia Core 5 that is used to practice different skills. If students are struggling with a concept, the teacher is notified and prompts her to teach the lesson. Everyone takes a pretest and lessons are differentiated. It will fill in holes of concepts they may have missed in previous grades. Starts at 20-30 minutes a week and can go up to 60.
- Using an app called Keyboarding Without Care to help students improve typing skills.

Principal's Report

- Check out the Pittsfield Press coming out this week.
- Jan. 31 is next early release day.
- Reminder of Winter Dance on Feb. 2 – 6-8 p.m.
- Disability Awareness – 4th grade – Feb. 8.
- NAAPID – All parents are invited to come to celebrate the connection of home and school. More information will be coming. Feb. 12
- Feb. 14 is Count Day.
- Kindergarten Roundup – 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22.
- No more mid-winter break but there is a longer President's Day weekend.
- Spring break is last week of March, a week earlier than before.
- In April, we will hold an Autism Awareness event 1st week of April.
- Annual science fair will be changed up a bit. It will be called the STEAM Fair. April 19. It will still be a gallery walk. Will discuss this at the PTO meeting next month. Ms. Avenall asked parents to think about what kind of support may be helpful before the meeting next meeting.

- **Motion to approve consent agenda.** Katie Loomis made the motion. Lindsey Wolfe seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report

Aaron Kraft and Dawn Keech

- PTO Board met on Saturday, Jan. 13 for a mid-Year budget meeting.
- Gambling fundraiser is still in the works.
- Had more revenue than budgeted on Fun Run and Fall Fest.
- Expenses have been less than budgeted for several fall items.

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- We are going to be making efforts to communicate teacher and specials grants in case anyone is unclear.
- Executive board approved a \$180 request from Lauer to replace a whiteboard.
- Jeff Irwin made motion; Diana Cass seconded. Motion passed.
 - o Ms. Avenall thanked PTO and said support was being used.
 - o May want to think about whether specials teachers in the futures should have access to field trip funds.
- March is Reading Month – Katie Loomis reached out to a local author. We talked about an all-school assembly where the book is read, music is sung, questions are answered. She could also do in-class activities as well. Half-day - \$375. Full-day \$550. On Jan. 26, Michigan Humanities Council has a grant application to pay for such events. Katie may try to apply, but the PTO has money budgeted. Staff will have to decide if they want a half-day or full-day.
- Disability Workshop. 4th grade. Signup genius has gone out.
- Pizza kit fundraiser. Lindsey said it doesn't appear it is happening for original timeframe, but someone should check with Fran to see if she could do later.
- STEAM Fair – If there is a need to build prototypes, Aaron said the PTO could help cover up to \$100 with just board approval.
- Parent help will be needed for NAAPID (continental breakfast set up) and kindergarten roundup.

Ice Cream Social

- Diana Cass is co-chair. Dawn will walk through responsibilities. But another co-chair is needed.
- We have no one responsible for food (getting ice cream) – ideally 2 people.
- Need someone to run Games. 1-2 people.
- Silent Auction: Stephanie Riegler is taking the lead but we need co-chairs. Lindsey Wolfe said Amanda Saffian and Melanie Bale will likely be helping.
- Cake Walk –Kerry Meggison will do again. (need for someone to shadow)
- Tickets – Lindsey Wolfe
- Publicity – Peri will do again. (need for someone to shadow)
- Please let Dawn know if you want to be volunteer or know someone else who could.

Treasurer's Report (Nathan Richards)

- Nathan has a sick kid so couldn't come.
- Budget is on track.

PTOC – Katie Loomis

- Liz Margolis, director of student and school safety, presented and talked about safe routes program. Pittsfield is not a priority. Carol has been in touch.
- Presentation on TRAILS program through U-M. This is one of the mental health programs being implemented in the district. www.trailstowellness.org Not being implemented in elementary. Being implemented in middle and high school (starting at Scarlett in the fall). Involves training for school counselors to give them more guidance on cognitive behavioral therapy and more tools to use. Developing group therapy in schools to help students. Goal is eventually phase in to all schools in AAPS.

Open Discussion

- Lindsey Wolfe talked about executive board leadership. A co-president will be needed for next year and a VP.
- Playground is still going through board of ed process. Should be up soon.
- We did get a key volunteer for Science Olympiad.
- Carol noted that custodian's spouse died.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.