

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

Feb. 13, 2018

Present

Aaron Kraft
Jenn Bjurman
Carol Shakarian
Jenn Lill
Karen Hulsebus
Katie Loomis

Lindsey Wolfe
Patricia Memmott
Tina Perkins
Kelly Pfeifer
Jason Prince
Nathan Richards
Fran Steele

Peri Stone-Palmquist
Ms. Avenall
Ms. Duman
Ms. Hoopaw
Ms. Killewald
Ms. Villaneuva

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

Introductions

Student Presentation – Soren Stone-Palmquist

- Soren developed an idea for a new game to take place of the now-banned inflatables, called Maze Tag. Soren explained the rules and what is needed. Ms. Hoopaw thought we could ask Rec and Ed to donate flag football. Nate suggested larger and Soren agreed. Aaron asked for cost estimates. Ms. Shakarian suggested to keep the rules simple so students can understand it quickly. Ms. Shakarian suggested thinking about age groups and grouping K and 1st graders together, etc.

Teacher Presentations 1 – Ms. Hoopaw

- Discussed the format of the new report card. Much shorter now (2 pages versus several). Aligned with Common Core. 3 is right on track (4 is above and beyond). The hope is that by the end of the year, students would be at a 3 for everything.
- Parents can review a PLP (personalized learning plan). If your child is not at grade level for reading in K-3, the school will also send home an individualized reading plan.
- Term 2 report cards will be out before spring break.

Teacher Presentations – Ms. Avenall, Ms. Killewald, Ms. Van Loo

- STEAM Fair versus Science Fair - will also incorporate technology, math, engineering and art. Will be in everyone's class. We will have the board available, but there will be larger range of formats (iPads, for instance). A guidance document will be provided home. Ms. Killewald visits every classroom. She has a box of science fair project ideas. Parents asked for more guidance on projects, feedback, structured checkpoints. Ms. Hoopaw talked about possible lunch time sessions with students. Ms. Avenall said she'd like to consistency across teachers. Dawn suggested brainstorming session with peers. Parents expressed enthusiasm for the new format.

Principal's Report

- Thank everyone for NAAPID. About 75 parents signed in. A bit fewer than last year but still a strong showing.
- Disability Awareness Workshop came. Lidia Kraft organized this with the help of volunteers.
- Kindergarten roundup is coming up. Be here at 6:15 if possible. We need volunteers (student and parents).
- Custodial change. Ms. Johnson retired. We have hired a new day-time custodian. Shana Green, who trained with Ms. Johnson.
- Mid-Winter break is coming up. 4-day weekend. Spring break is coming up. Last full week of March.
- Shared a list of items the PE Department could need in the future (to answer a question raised at the last PTO meeting).
- Ms. Duman noted that Young 5s are part of the Kindergarten roundup. Jen will emphasize this in Monday message in the future.

President's Report

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Aaron Kraft and Dawn Keech

- Thanked all the volunteers and noted that he made food for everyone to say thanks.
- Feb. 14 is count day.
- Thanks to Amanda Saffian for organizing the new holiday book give-away. We spent Scholastic money on more than 400 books. Amanda even wrapped them. Possibly new tradition. Maybe next year, we could take orders during Fall Fest.
- Thank you to Diana Cass and Chiara Hensley for Winter Dance.
- Thanks for Lidia Kraft for organizing Disability Workshop.
- Thanks to Pittsfield staff for organizing NAAPID.
- Dawn volunteered to get snacks for Kindergarten Roundup.
- Ice Cream Social - need someone to coordinate food/ice cream. We could use a co-chair.
- 5th grade promotion - Lindsey Wolfe and Keri Mose will facilitate
- 5th grade safety patrol coming.

Motion to approve minutes. Katie Loomis made the motion. Dawn Keech seconded. Motion passed.

March is Reading Month (Katie Loomis)

- Working on contract with author. She will coming Monday, March 5 for 2 assemblies, one from 9-10 and one from 11-12. She will present stories and songs. Fee is for half day. \$375 to be paid in full on the day she arrives. Katie applied for a grant to cover 50% of the cost, but this takes 4 weeks to process. Author asked for a small space (better acoustics) and a sound field system. At Nicola's, the book is \$14. Directly from her with CD, \$13. We will talk about purchasing books directly for students. (Budget was \$800. We also have \$500 budgeted for equity costs).
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Science Olympiad - Kick off is starting soon.

Treasurer's Report (Nathan Richards)

- Income is \$1,689. Restaurant night went well. Box tops. 5th grade tuition. A students' grandparents donated \$200.
- Expenses \$990. 1st installment of costs for Disability Awareness Workshop. Only \$108 for classroom grants. \$149 for specials grants. Native American experience for \$345. Whiteboard replacement reimbursement for Ms. Lauer, \$188. Science Olympiad costs at \$175.
- Gym paint costs reimbursed to Ms. Knowles

PTOC – Patricia Memmott

- Behavior interventionists shared what they have been doing across grades.

Open Discussion

- Karen wondered about the best way to communicate with teachers. Peri will share list with student emails. Nathan noted that she still has \$300 left in the budget for the garden.
- Executive board leadership. A co-president will be needed for next year and a VP. Lindsey suggested making this a formal agenda item.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.