

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

Present

Aaron Kraft
Carol Shakarian
Aster Banta
Dawn Keech
Diana Cass
Jenn Lill

Karen Hulsebus
Jeff Irwin
Katie Loomis
Lindsey Wolfe
Patricia Memmott
Kelly Pfeifer

Nathan Richards
Peri Stone-Palmquist
Ms. Domangue
Ms. Duman
Ms. Villaneuva

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

Introductions

Student Presentation – Soren Stone-Palmquist

Soren explained his new game, Maze Runner. He made the size bigger, 60 by 60. Goal is to pull the flags off the other team. Extra points for securing the "Golden Shoe." Costs would be up to \$350, but depends on what is donated. Jeff has 5-8 posts that he could donate. Concern about safety and someone running into it posts Carol suggested a referee (in addition to volunteers on either side). She wondered if anyone could be disqualified. Diana expressed concern about young students and older students in the maze together (5th graders knocking over kindergarteners). Aaron asked Soren to find out how much he could get donated and do final costs. Soren said he thought this could last more than one year.

Motion PTO support Soren's project in the range of \$200-\$350. Motion by Aaron, seconded by Lindsey. Soren should work with Executive Committee to finalize details.

Teacher Presentation – Ms. Domangue (ASD teacher)

- First year in Ann Arbor Schools. Has a brother with down syndrome and that's how she got passionate about her work. Autism is a developmental disorder (not a disability). Students with autism learn things in different orders. It's a spectrum and each student is unique. To promote Autism Awareness, each classroom is designing their own puzzle piece to make a mural in the hallway. Every teacher will wear a special T-shirt on April 6. Students will be asked to wear blue. Morning announcements will include information about autism. Teachers will be emailed tips.

Principal's Report

- One life skill we like to teach children is kindness and inclusion. March 14 is national School Walkout Day and the school won't be doing a walkout but we will be doing a special lesson kindness, a more developmentally appropriate response.
- School safety is our number one priority. We do practice safety drills (and is legally required). We are led by the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Informed, Counter, Evacuate) protocol, which is an adult response meant to buy time and take control of the situation. We have external doors in every classroom if that's needed and it's safe to leave. Teachers are to make classroom plans. PA announcement will be how we notify teachers / students of any incident. If there is a lockdown, parents should not try to come into the school.
- Climate survey is coming out April 3-17. Parents are asked to fill this out. Students, grades 3-5, take the survey.
- The Listen & Learn tour is coming back. The superintendent will be coming to local schools to learn about our priorities, dreams. April 4 at Carpenter.

Motion to approve consent agenda. Motion made by Irwin, seconded by Keech. Motion passed.

President's Report

Aaron Kraft and Dawn Keech

- Thank you to the parents and student tour guides who volunteered at Kindergarten Roundup.
- Thanks to Katie Loomis for organizing March is Reading Month (and securing a grant). Extra funds were used to purchase books and distribute to classes.

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- Science Olympiad. Great team this year. Lots of work behind the scenes. Happening in mid-May. Thanks to Matt Stone-Palmquist for co-chairing with Aaron Kraft.
- Peri put together a list of open roles for next year.
- We need co-president, vice-president, fundraising chair for Executive Committee.
- Restaurant chair - Ms. Villaneuva volunteered to take over from Ms. Duman.
- Movie night chair - Matt Newman is training a new replacement.
- Boxtops chair - Stephanie will continue.
- SIT chair has been open. It's been open.
- Ice cream social positions for this year are finally full.
- Aaron will be gone on a long trip from May to August. He will miss the last two meetings.
- Ms. Villanueva and Ms. Duman both say email is preferred for nearly all families in their class. We talked about a longer email monthly with Ms. Shakarian's letter. Karen wondered about attaching something as a PDF monthly with the photos. Agreement that we should stop printing and the school could print a few copies of something if requested by families.

Treasurer's Report (Nathan Richards)

- Income is \$821 in January and expenses were \$2,980.
- 5th grade deposit was due. Another payment is due next month.
- Winter Dance was under budget.
- We've been under budget on a lot of things.
- Field trip transportation quote is coming in about \$300 more than budgeted. Nathan feels we can afford this.
- We've been asked to cover STEAM Science Fair boards for \$450.
- Executive Committee approved these two expenses.
- Discussed need to get feedback from teachers and staff about wishlist and need for
- Teacher grants -- only given out 40% out. Aaron will be sending out a letter about FAQs, balance.

PTOC – Patricia Memmott

- PTOC meeting was focused on safety, ALICE protocol. March 19 is a listen and learn at Balas.
- Jenna Bacalor talked about volunteer background checks.

Open Discussion

- Lindsey could get an update on PTO Thrift Shop? Is that a position we need? Aaron will reach out to Candace.
- Karen asked about pizza kit. We budgeted that we would raise \$500. Comments that it may be helpful to share with the school what the money will help fund.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.