

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Lindsey Wolfe

Present

Lindsey Wolfe, Teresa Maldonado, Anne Wizauer, Kori Kasara, Karen Hulsebus, JoAnn Parkus, Aaron Kraft, Anthony Lauer, Carol Shakarian, Christy Allen, Patricia Memmott, Peri Stone-Palmquist, Justina Meyer, Kathryn Loomis, Marj Lamoreaux, Fran Steele

Introductions

Principal's Report

Carol Shakarian

- Sinking Fund millage vote coming on May 2
 - Informational slides and videos available on AAPS website: a2schools.org
 - Video tours show current facility conditions
- Playground Committee meetings are getting underway
 - Art teacher has been gathering student feedback on what they would like to see as part of the new design
 - Ga-ga ball pit has been a popular idea
 - Broad timeline between this summer and next summer

Teacher Appreciation Week

Kori Kasara

- Teacher Appreciation Week will be May 1-5, excluding May 2 with no school
- Attempting to secure a lunch donation for Wednesday
- Count for the morning is 30 people and count for lunch and afternoon is 40 people
- Please sign-up to help!
- Blank thank-you letter templates are in the office for parents and students to compose letters to their teachers for delivery on Friday

President's Report

Lindsey Wolfe

- 2017/2018 Board positions open:
 - Vice President (2 year term): no specific duties, able to select projects to be involved in
 - Secretary (1 year term this election): meeting minutes, track attendance and membership
 - Treasurer (2 year term): 2-3 hours/week, review funding requests, distribute approved funds, prepare funds for events, bank runs
 - SIT Rep (annual): participate in the School Improvement Team to create suggestions for improvements aligned with District goals, this year was application for school-wide Title I status, meet bi-monthly
 - PTOC Rep (annual): represent Pittsfield at the district-wide assembly of all PTOs, one meeting per month with exposure to District leadership and other PTO members and ideas
- Non-Board Positions
 - Monday Message Coordinator: collect and assemble information to create the weekly Monday Message that goes out to the school community
 - Hospitality: 6 events per year, coordinating meals for teachers and staff, food for school activities, recruit volunteers
 - Scholastic Book Fair: would be ideal if person could assist with the book fair this June to see the process, week of each book fair is a big time commitment
 - Scripts Coordinator: possible fundraiser that has been done in the past, involves communication and marketing

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- Merchandising: Marj will continue with arranging the Pittsfield gear orders unless someone else is interested
- Website Manager: site uses School Wires through the District, 1-2 hours/week of updates, turnover of information during the summer to reflect the upcoming year
- [ACTION ITEM] Investigate inviting incoming Pittsfield parents to this year PTO meeting

Garden Update

Justina Meyer

- Garden offers a valuable experience to create community, teach skills, and connect to nature
- Garden can link to science curriculum in each grade and provide hands-on learning
- Several parents have stepped in to get the garden up and running
- Planning to start up a weekly garden group after drop-off
- Justina has been taking small groups to the garden during lunch time
- Compost bin in the cafeteria is a future goal
- Garden website is up and running
- A previous planting schedule has been located

Approve Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve by Anne Wizauer and seconded by Christy Allen
- Motion passes with all in favor

Equity at Pittsfield – how we can best support our home school

- Goal of increasing support to school community to increase connection to PTO
- Lindsey reached out to cafeteria and media center to determine current debt owed
 - Lunch debt \$75
 - Media Center debt (lost books) \$300
- Providing school supplies at the start of the year
 - Provide a basic supply kit for all incoming kindergarten students with everything needed to complete homework
- Keep a supply of nutritious snacks in the school office
- Dinner at PTO meetings
 - Partially funded by PTO
 - Donations accepted
 - Advertise to bring your dinner with you
- Address transportation obstacles to meetings and school events
 - Provide gas or bus cards
 - Carpooling options
- Clothing
 - Donate spirit wear items
 - Have a free clothing swap event (maybe bins at Ice Cream Social)
- Address attendance obstacles
 - Is the 6pm time inclusive?
 - Would another day or rotation of days be better?
 - Broadcast meeting on FB Live or Go To Meeting
 - [ACTION ITEM] Anthony will investigate broadcasting the next meeting on FB Live
 - Personally invite some of your fellow Pittsfield parents
 - [ACTION ITEM] Aaron will create a survey to distribute in print and electronically to collect input from Pittsfield families
- Book initiative to address summer learning slide is moving forward

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PTOC Report

Anne Wizauer/Anthony Lauer

- School budget discussion and Sinking Fund millage (Anne)
 - School aid budget makes up a large portion of the state budget
 - Community Colleges and higher education are a portion of this
 - State School Aid sources come mainly from sales tax, income tax, state education tax and the lottery
 - Per pupil funding has been steadily decreasing
 - Funding discussions are currently underway at the State level
 - Impacts could include potential of voucher systems and Medicaid reductions that would cut payments to student therapies
 - Sinking Fund millage conversation (Anne and Anthony)
 - Use of the current millage and why the increase is needed
 - Supported by PTOC
- Peer to Peer (Anthony)
 - District coordinator for this program encouraged PTOs to support this program and schools
 - [ACTION ITEM] Exec Board to consider budget line item for Peer to Peer next year
- Differentiation (Anthony)
 - Learning differentiation for student can be achieved within the classroom
 - Curriculum maps are available as a teacher and parent resource: <https://aapsk12-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Public/View/Default>
 - Programs like IB and Project Lead the Way personalize learning
 - Creating language tracks to encourage proficiency throughout K-12 experience
 - MI Association for Gifted Children <http://mifgiftedchild.org/>
 - Utilize strategy of clustering gifted children instead of separating them
 - Embed challenge throughout the day of instruction instead of separate sessions

Treasurer's Report

Anthony Lauer

- Total assets of \$28,406 total liabilities of \$4,059, net assets of \$24,347
- Incoming funds from Olga's (\$156), CA Pizza Kitchen (\$63), Kroger (\$139)
- Tomorrow is Noodles & Co. restaurant night – will donate 50% to Pittsfield
- Kroger rewards account no longer needs to be renewed annual for Pittsfield (just the initial designation is required)
- 5th grade camp is close to 90% of funds collected, PTO will need to sponsor less than budgeted
- Outgoing funds to March is reading month author (\$400 installment), Gemini Concert (\$550)
- Lindsey Wolfe motions to approve \$375 for library lost books and an amount not to exceed \$100 for school lunch debt, Peri Stone-Palmquist seconds, all are in favor, motion passes

Open Discussion

- More paper may be needed in classrooms, current supply levels in the office will be checked
- Is there a central location that parents could anonymously request items they need and others could fulfill their requests?
 - School office can cover some of these with their Community Grant funds
- Ice Cream Social needs to be added to the PTO Gmail calendar

Summary of Action Items

- PTO leadership will investigate inviting incoming Pittsfield parents to this year PTO meeting
- Anthony Lauer will investigate broadcasting the next meeting on FB Live
- Aaron Kraft will create a survey to distribute in print and electronically to collect input from Pittsfield families
- PTO Exec Board to consider budget line item for Peer to Peer next year

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm