

Pittsfield PTO Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2017

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

Present

Lindsey Wolfe, Jen Duman, Kori Kasara, Karen Hulsebus, JoAnn Parkus, Aaron Kraft, Anthony Lauer, Carol Shakarian, Patricia Memmott, Peri Stone-Palmquist, Justina Meyer, Jennifer Lill, Kerry Meggison

Introductions

Teacher Introductions

Mr. Schwab presented about Peer to Peer Program at Pittsfield – Evidence-based, championed by Grand Valley State University that pairs students with communication and social challenges with students who don't (but may have other challenges). Talk about how to be a good friend. Lots of teaching, training. They may notice someone doesn't have anyone to play with on the playground and will go play with them. Action component: Opportunities to be together, have fun together. Once a month, we have Fun Friday (played games, crafts, snacks).

This is throughout Ann Arbor Public Schools, all ages. In Pittsfield, 50 students in program (less than half are identified with a disability). The school social worker works with teachers to identify participants. Students must want to participate and parents/guardians must give permission.

One parent noted that the program affects the rest of the school, as more students understand that brains work differently. Another parent noted that her child used some of the skills she learned at home. The students have really come out of their shells, the staff reported.

Social emotional skills are also taught through PBIS and 5th grade health class.

Principal's Report

Carol Shakarian

- Thanked parents for participating in PTO, as well as Mrs. Parkus and Mrs. Duman for being teacher reps.
- Thanks for Teacher Appreciation Week, especially Kori.
- Playground Committee has met a few times. Several parents, principal and art teacher are on the committee. Ms. Avenall has been working with art students to come up with design.
 - Want some standalone items.
 - Want to visit other playgrounds and bring back photos of equipment.
 - Want to maintain green space.
 - Talked about outdoor classroom spaces.
 - Talked about shade and seating.
 - Places to sit and talk.
 - Students wants places to climb and move.
 - New balls wanted.
 - Soccer nets desired.

Motion to support Josh Carlson's request to build a GaGa pit (probably summer of 2018) and to direct Josh to connect with the playground committee. – Lindsey / Justina. Passed.

- Sinking Fund millage passed on May 2

Approve Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve by Kari and seconded by Justina.
- Motion passes with all in favor

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President's Report

Lindsey Wolfe

- Thanks for Kori and others for a great Teacher Appreciation Week.
- 2017/2018 Board positions:
 - Vice President (2 year term): no specific duties, able to select projects to be involved in: OPEN
 - Secretary (1 year term this election): meeting minutes, track attendance and membership. FILLED: Peri Stone-Palmquist
 - Treasurer (2 year term): 2-3 hours/week, review funding requests, distribute approved funds, prepare funds for events, bank runs. FILLED: Nathan Richards.
 - 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. OPEN
 - 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. FILLED: Patricia Memmott
- Non-Board Positions
 - Monday Message Coordinator: collect and assemble information to create the weekly Monday Message that goes out to the school community. FILLED: Jennifer Lill.
 - Hospitality: 6 events per year, coordinating meals for teachers and staff, food for school activities, recruit volunteers. Each event has a budget. OPEN
 - 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. OPEN
 - Scripts Coordinator: possible fundraiser that has been done in the past, involves communication and marketing. OPEN (was not filled this year)
 - 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. FILLED: Jennifer Lill
 - 5th Grade Promotion – need non-4th or 5th grade chair. FILLED: Lindsey Wolfe and Kerry Meggison.

Pittsfield Equity Questionnaire

Aaron Kraft

- Survey distributed by email and paper. 48 responses. Half have never attended meetings.
- Asked what might be a barrier to participation, such as day of the week, not knowing what happens, not knowing anyone, don't feel welcome, transportation, boring/not useful.
 - Not conclusive.
- Asked what would be helpful:
 - Dinner: 12 said yes / 21 not helpful
 - Personal invite: 12 said yes / 23 said no
 - Brief educational topic: More people said yes.
- What else can PTO do?
 - Free supplies for kindergarten (50%)
 - Healthy snacks in office (52%)
 - Spirit Wear Exchange (50%)
 - Other clothing exchange (50%)
 - Other ideas:
 - Used book table
 - Free spirit wear
 - Outdoor clothing
- Discussed several ideas for budget:
 - Dinner (\$1000)
 - Free spirit wear for everyone

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- Healthy snacks in office – concern about distribution in office. Idea to frontload and give to teachers for classroom distribution. Breakfast items may be needed for students who come in late and miss breakfast. And snacks to send home. Single serving would be helpful. Could be stored in PTO Closet.
- More free tickets at Ice Cream Social.
- Outdoor gear
- Costume
- Partner with Food Gatherers or others to secure food (or maybe just sharing the message)
- Facebook Live equipment
- Book fair “scholarships”
- Could we communicate what is available to all parents?
- Discuss further in June to give guidance to Executive Committee for budget.

Treasurer’s Report

Anthony Lauer

- Total assets of \$27,395 total liabilities of \$3,417, net assets of \$23,978.
- 5th grade camp – anticipated that we’d bring in \$4,000, but actually brought in \$5,570.
- We are anticipating getting much less from PTO Thrift Shop next year. We shouldn’t expect about \$1,100 from PTO Thrift Shop for field trip transportation.
- Discussed budget for next year:
 - May want to add more funds for garden, teaching teachers how to use the garden for teaching.

PTOC Report

Anthony Lauer

- No report given.

Open Discussion

- Facebook Live worked
- June 14th restaurant night, Cold Stone Creamery, 5-10 p.m.
- School-wide event before school starts.

Summary of Action Items

- Aaron Kraft will work on putting budget numbers to equity initiative ideas to discuss in June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm