

PTO Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Jenn Carlson, Jessi Guthre, Jen Duman, Carol Shakarian, Tina Gould, Jill Priestley, JoAnn Parkus, Samina Barritt, Simone McDaniel, Tatum Theodore, Teresa Maldonado, Carol Larsen, Robin Mendenhall, Amy Pufahl, Angelique Boerst

General Meeting:

Welcome from President and Introductions of all attendees.

Teacher Report – Art (Robin Mendenhall) and Music (Carol Larsen)

- Art:
 - o March is youth art month.
 - o Thanks to Tatum for including the art page in the newsletter every month
 - o Making art from the PBIS program – from positive behavior phrases and the physical tickets.
 - o One Art star per week – students get to select a special art project and a photo of the student and what they made is posted outside the art room
 - o Also tying art into the Pittsfield garden which ties art with science
 - o Students' art is on display at the Reichert Center, Barnes and Noble and on Main street at Cherry Republic. March 24th from 4-5pm is Youth Art Walk.
- Music:
 - o Concert Schedule:
 - April 11th at 6:30 PM – Kindergarten
 - May 2nd at 6:30 PM – 3rd Grade
 - June 12th at 6:30 PM – 5th Grade promotion
 - o Thanks to the PTO for the money from last year. Carol purchased a guitar and is learning guitar as part of her professional development. The students love the guitar and it is a great instrument to work with the K and 1st graders who sit on the floor as they can be close by.
 - o The kids are writing their own songs. Kemiri's song – written by Kemiri from Mrs. Duman's class – will be performed at the Pittsfield Kindergarten choir concert, as well as at another school's concert.

Principal Report – Carol Shakarian

- The annual climate survey will be coming out soon. Please tell us how you are feeling about Pittsfield.
- Still no word on budget cuts in specific, however no schools will be closing next year.
- We had a good showing at the Barnes and Noble book fair. Thanks.
- Thanks to Shaun Harrison for recommending author John Perry ("The Book That Eats People") as our March is Reading Month guest.
- All major school expenses have to be approved. The budget changes are going to start to impact the way school looks more than we have been used to in the past.

President /PTOC Report – Simone McDaniel

- State BOE forum at Pioneer was overflowing in attendance. There was some spirited discussion between State BOE members and MSU Professor David Arson who feels that the State BOE is not heading in the right direction. There are a lot of proposals, and a lot of discussion about choice, but no standards.
- PTOC meeting on March 18th will be to talk budget. Nancy Hoover will be present in Robert Allen's absence. 7PM at Balas. April 15th PTOC meeting is on testing in the district
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Treasurer's Report – Jessi Guthre

- Detail sheet will be available in the treasurer's mailbox with a few copies at the meeting.
- Review of current finances
 - o February Profit is \$3459
 - o YTD Income \$7465
 - o Teacher grants are 67% reimbursed
 - o Scrip has earned \$1498 to date
 - o Winter dance broke even
- The "square" that was purchased to take credit cards costs a small transaction fee. Jessi offered to put together a charge sheet for events to document the amount of the fee.
- We could purchase a PTO iPod to use for the transactions at events, or just install the app on individual phones for each event.

Jenn Carlson moves to accept the per dollar fee for the square and have it posted at ticket tables, etc. Motion Passes

Simone McDaniel moves to accept the minutes. Motion passes.

5th Grade Camp – Angelique Boerst

- May 13th – 15th
- Camp Storer is a great experience with outside learning the entire time.
- All 5th graders are encouraged to attend. They are asked to donate if possible, but the PTO helps where needed.
- 2/3 of the \$4,920 needed is pledged.
- The 5th grade teachers support this great event with their time, but we also need cabin leaders and drivers. Scott Guthre and Amy Penoyar are going as chaperones. We need one more mom and one more dad at this time.

SIT Update – Beth Loomis

More work on the Title I Participation/Parent involvement policy to make it easy to read and understand. Rewriting the entry and exit criteria for Title I as the old language in the document was unnecessarily complicated.

Jen Duman – Marco's restaurant night was on a holiday (sorry!) and only earned \$80, but the Marco's owner is so generous, he is giving us \$160. Please consider giving Marco's business in the future to maintain this great relationship.

Next restaurant night is April 25th on Science fair night and is tentatively at Noodles and Company.

Enrichment:

We currently have \$31,000 total assets. If we make no money the rest of the year, we will have \$3,000 more than we need to start the next year. If we break even (on events such as ICS) we will have \$7,500, so the chances are we will have even more than that. Last year we bought document cameras, leveled books and PE equipment. Proposals were provided for further enrichment purchases which will be discussed/voted on next month.

Public service announcement: Please keep the PTO closet clean. It was suggested that we purchase some nice clear plastic bins for the shelves so we can better organize the shelves and do a better job of finding what we need and using what we already have!

Ice Cream Social – Jill Priestly

- 1st meeting was Friday
- Food, raffle and Games have chairs, but can always use help
- Need a publicity chair to promote our event with signs, backpack mail, and advertising. Blurbs will also be put in the newsletter in March and April.
- Please solicit businesses you frequent for donations for the ice cream social. The upcoming Scarlett/Mitchell family fun night has a great list of donations to work from.
- Teacher auction/raffle (lunch with the teacher, student teacher for the afternoon, etc) was proposed with \$1 tickets. It was very successful as a raffle at Lakewood Elementary (raised \$1700 from student ticket purchases)
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Samina moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06. Meeting adjourns.