

December 14th Pittsfield Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jenn Carlson, Amy Pufahl, Wanda Perez, Deanna Kempke, Alison McCrystal, Carol Shakarian, April Pedit, Janet Shane, Fran Steele

Meeting was called to order at 6:46 PM

Carol's Report

Carol (re)introduced April Pedit who is an AAPS enrichment coordinator. April is gathering resources for teachers and has 20 hours a week to split between Pittsfield, Carpenter, Allen and Mitchell. She is already working with some second graders on extra fraction work and with some fourth grader excelling math students on bridge building. She is assembling packets for teachers to grab as needed and may also be able to help some students with the science fair.

There was a bridge building competition in conjunction with the "mindset" program (at U of M?). The contact came from an Allen parent. There were 15 4th and 5th graders and for four hours on four different weekends, the kids sat in lectures and built bridges in multi ethnic cross school teams of both boys and girls. The attendance was almost perfect and the program was great and something we would consider doing again.

School messenger was in effect yesterday when about 18,000 notifications went out regarding the snow day. Reactions to the 5:00 AM calls were mixed.

The district is requesting that the schools do more surveys. The school will be doing "We Surveys" to find out how we are doing. The SIT team will look at the data. There will be both student and parent components.

Carol mentioned that it is a pleasure working with the parents on the PTO and acknowledged that some of the parents will be "promoted" at the end of the school year. Current Pittsfield enrollment is 255.

Student Organizations:

Cub Scout Pack 17 approached the PTO about sponsoring them. After discussion with the PTOC President and Liz Margolis, the executive board discussed the matter and decided that even though the Cub Scouts do not require finances or a lot of support, there was no promise that there wouldn't be a host of other organizations subsequently wanting support and that it would not be fair to sponsor one and not all. The executive board declined to sponsor the Scouts, but indicated that they did have an alternate sponsor in the Village Co-operative.

Field Trips:

Mrs. Lauer requested funding for the Nutcracker – it was approved

Mr. Merante requested funding for an ice skating trip that was approved but then did not occur.

There was some general discussion about how field trips get funded and that funding can be approved between meetings in time sensitive situations by a 2/3 vote of the executive board. It was pointed out that as the SIT representative, Amy Pufahl should be included on the exec board.

4th grade State Capitol field trip: There is talk that the historically 4th grade government trip to the Michigan State Capitol will be moving to 3rd grade with the government curriculum. There was quite a bit of discussion surrounding making sure that current 4th graders do not miss out on this excellent field trip. There were proposals to both keep the field trip with the 4th grade regardless of the curriculum shift, and to send the current 4th graders on the trip with the 3rd graders if it was indeed moved so that this one class would not miss out. Amy is going to contact Corey Merante (4th

grade teacher) to solicit his opinion on the matter. Charter bus costs were discussed, but the general consensus was that the current 4th graders should not miss out one way or another.

Lab School Project:

Amy reported out that she finally felt that parents will be presented with options after the BOE meeting on December 8th, one of which was a school within a school. It was reported that in January, BOE president Deb Mexicotte will be sending out district wide surveys. All feedback is currently online at the AAPS website.

Business:

Alison moved to accept the November minutes, Amy seconded and there was no dissent.

Treasurer:

Wanda presented the PTO finances and then there was general discussion about fundraisers.

Alison discussed some of the logistics of Movie night and suggested that a family start thinking about taking over coordinating it for the future. The movie is either borrowed or purchased and raffled off. The projector belongs to school and the DVD player and all necessary cords are in the PTO closet. She picks up food at Gordon's including pre popped popcorn and whatever candy she thinks the kids will like. Everything sells for \$1. Alison is also graciously assembling resources from her PTO years.

Holiday Photo Fundraiser:

This new fundraiser was a great success. Marj Lamoreaux took professional photos for families and community members and the PTO made \$450. It was recommended that we repeat the fundraiser next year with promotion in the September and October newsletters. The future Scarlett parents also suggested that we promote this at Scarlett too!

5th Grade Camp:

37 students have put in more than half of their working hours. 2 of the students are not attending. 8 ½ need financial aid. Payment is due December 15th, January 15th and March 15th. 5th graders are all being very receptive to working their service hours.

Pizza Kits:

The first delivery is February 4th after lunch time.

King Arthur Flour Baking Program:

Fran discussed a free upper elementary program from King Arthur Flour in which they send in folks to demonstrate making bread and then send each child home with flour to make bread at home. They get to bake two loaves – one to keep and one to donate to a local food bank. Fran is going to contact the 4th and 5th grade teachers about it. Haisley and Eberwhite recently participated in this program.

Winter Dance:

The Feb 11th winter dance was discussed with limited interest from parents to plan it. Alison agreed to take it on as a fundraiser and discuss it with the fifth graders to see if they want to take it on as a camp fundraiser.

Mission Statement:

Alison prepared a mission statement for the PTO. Jenn moved and Deanna seconded accepting the mission statement with the modification of the word "curriculum" to "curricular."

Lockdown Information:

Amy brought up the recent lockdowns and the fact that her children keep coming home indicating that the lockdown was a drill. She stated that she was not comfortable with them thinking it was a drill if it was not. Carol discussed that while there is no policy on how this should be addressed, she said that she tries to tell it like it is. She will not state that it is a drill if it is not, but she tries to choose her words carefully.

At 8:44 PM, Alison moved to adjourn the meeting. Deanna seconded. Alison moved to have a Happy Holiday!

Meeting adjourned.