

PTO Minutes
Thursday, Nov 4, 2016
6:30pm, ERS Library

President: Meeting brought to order at 6:33pm; Oct minutes approved

Guest Speaker: Jim Hake, 4th Grade Teacher

- As part of the unit on government, 4th graders are learning about the election process and running a school-wide election on 11/4/16. A major goal is for the students to learn about candidates' policies and positions on issues rather than forming opinions without knowing facts. They learned about the offices up for vote, and each student who wanted to run for office put together a campaign team, designed posters and slogans, wrote speeches, and broadcast debates and speeches. They did presentations for the younger grades, developed sample ballots, had the younger students fill out voter registration cards, and set up a polling place in the cafeteria. During the voting, the 4th graders will do exit polls, monitor voting stations, etc. This is part of an UMSL program.

Vice Presidents:

- Dinner & a movie (11/4/16): Zootopia will be shown; pizzas were ordered. Dinner starts at 6:30, with the movie 7. Raffle tickets will be sold (\$2/ticket or \$3/5) to offset movie costs (\$150 to show).
- Original Works: Materials and letter will be delivered next week.
- Penny Drive (11/14-18): Decorated coffee cans will be placed in the classrooms.
- Classroom parties went well and Dec parties will be planned soon.
- Trunk or Treat: 25 cars, 246 leftover candy; Dr. Wuch will take the extra candy for the office.
- Conference dinners: Mon (Domino's pizza/salad), Tues (taco bar)
- Book Fair: Open Nov 4, 6, 7, 9; teachers have wish lists posted and are accepting book donations
- Schoolstitch (ends 11/10): To advertise, PTO will put info in PawPrint and link to youtube video
- Landscaping: Nothing happening in the near future
- Boxtops: 1st collection resulted in a check of \$228; a second mailing was sent because a number of boxtops were about to expire on 11/1, and a check amount is pending. Because collection is continuous, it was suggested to make a classroom announcement at the beginning of each month. Mrs. Raymond's class is in the lead (452), with Mr. Hake's class in 2nd (322).
- Trivia Night (3/4/17): A venue is being finalized, as many places are booked. A committee meeting will be held after Thanksgiving, before winter break.
- Enrichment classes: Jan/Feb, volunteers needed to teach students. These generally meet 1-2 times for about an hour after school. Past classes included drawing, computer, knitting, sewing, Spanish, fishing, etc. Info is in the PawPrint and on Facebook. Volunteers need to commit before Nov 21 to allow for advertising and planning in December, as kids will register and get class schedules before winter break.

Treasurer:

- Balance: \$8,422.97
- Donations are over \$2,200, with several others coming in.
- We were under budget for Trunk or Treat, which was great.

Principal & Faculty Report:

- 1st annual Maker Day was terrific. This was not highly publicized to parents and Central Office not invited because this was the first year it was done.
- Mr. Hansen is holding INformances in the classrooms instead of performances. The downside is that parents who work can't attend, but Dr. Wuch is trying to find a way to record or live-stream them.
- Progress Reports are available online; the link and directions were in the Paw Print this week and last week.
- Student voice at ERS is growing:
 - 4th grade election (see notes above)
 - All-school Garage Sale (11/5) organized by Mr. Keller's class will help the Courtyard Committee.
 - School Newspaper is planned for the 2nd half of the year; idea was generated by a 4th grader.
 - Team 5 (5th graders) works on various projects, including preparing a presentation about a sustainable project to leave ERS when they move to Steger; buddies for younger grades
 - Soul Hope is a 2nd grade service project to meet social studies standards; goal is to raise \$1000 to make 100 denim patterns to send to Uganda to make shoes. The kids had the fundraising ideas (e.g. \$1 hat day) to raise the money needed to send with the patterns for shoes.
- Dr. Wuch commented on all of the great ideas that are being proposed but emphasized that the school calendar is already set and new things cannot be added for the year; however, ideas will be considered for next year.

New Business:

- Parents Night Out as held at Llewylenn's and 12 parents showed up. These will be planned monthly, with location varied throughout the school year.
- **Johnny-on-the-Spot wall:** The WGSD Foundation awarded an \$800 grant to the PTO to move the Johnny-on-the-Spot and then put up a privacy wall to make it less of an eyesore. The Boy Scouts are interested in helping.
- ERS PTO is the sponsor for Boy Scout Troop 314 and Pack 134.
- Elaine Wiley and Mr. Eckrich won the attendance prize.

Next meeting: Jan 5 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm