MINUTES
CORL STREET ELEMENTARY
PTO BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2013

Minutes:

In Attendance: Heather Ross (President), Linda Erickson (Co-VP), Ben Salinas (Co-VP), Jenny Seller Miska (Secretary), Scott Mato (Principal), Jennifer Oesterling (Teacher Rep), Rich Schmidt (Teacher Rep), David Hutchinson (School Board Rep), Michele Rowland, Wendy Stapleton, and Phil Vollmer

1. **Call to Order:** Heather Ross called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Phil Vollmer motioned to approve that the January minutes be approved. Michele Rowland seconded. Motion passed.

3. **President's Report:** Heather Ross will report throughout the meeting. She gave the floor to Mr. Mato.

4. **Principal's Report:** Mr. Mato reported that the Language Arts PSSA practice tests were administered last week for grades 3 to 5. The goal is to practice but to keep the stress levels down. Corl Street has made progress on the assessments each year. The emphasis is not on the individual child, but the school progress as a whole. The PSSA's will be given in March.

   February is Read, Write, and Unite - reading with the Cat in the Hat month. Jen Oesterling is collecting pictures of the kids reading with their Cat in the Hat. These will compiled into a slide show and shown during Read Across America week.

   The teachers have had a chance to practice safety with a security drill/lock down. The school would like to have better walkie-talkies, which are the communication backup system. The bus drivers and custodians also use walkie-talkies. Mr. Mato will report to the parents the location of the new evacuation site.

   Personnel Updates – The school psychologist is returning from maternity leave at the end of February. Shiloh Hamilton is the new paraprofessional in Mrs. Mamolen's room.

5. **Treasurer's Report**: Kasey Hearn was not able to make the meeting, so Heather Ross reported for her. She indicated that budget has been updated with the teacher book allocation spending. She encouraged the teachers to use their allocations during this fiscal year. Mr. Mato agreed to send out a message to teachers requesting they use their funds. Heather reported that we are on target to meet or come in under budget.

6. **School Board Report:** Dave Hutchinson represented the school board and made the following comments:
    a. There is still no definitive budget information from the state administration. The school board will need to pass a preliminary budget before receiving this information.
    b. Strategic planning meeting occurred in early February. They are still ongoing and productive. The strategic plan is the "vision, mission and how to achieve it."

Phil Vollmer presented on behalf of the H.S. Planning team. Students, graduates, teachers and parents are all represented on the team. They are identifying ways and efforts to solicit feedback. There are mixed opinions on what direction to go. The focus is on the Building. What facilities would best support the goals of the school and curriculum? The next community forum is on February 28th. It will include tours of the building.

7. **Teacher Representatives:** Rich Schmidt reported that a Penn State student approached him re: doing a gold tournament fundraiser as a senior project. The student was invited to the next PTO meeting to present his idea.

8. **Standing Committee Reports:**

    a. **Book Exchange** – Will be held on May 8th. Kids are encouraged to bring a book and take a book. Remaining books are donated to the AAUW book sale.
    b. **Expo** – Ben Salinas reported that the signups are coming in via Sign-Up Genius. They are still looking for parent volunteers. Michele Rowland expressed concern at the lack of registration for the Expo. Ben indicated that because they are using an online sign up, they are coming in but tend to be later this year. He will prepare a printed reminder to send home to parents.
    c. **Fifth Grade party** – Jen Oesterling asked for and received confirmation that $600 has been set aside for the party.
    d. Dodge ball Tournament – Michele Rowland reported that paper registrations for the tournament are going out soon. The tournament is April 7th at the H.S. North Building. They are still looking for an announcer. They have found a concession coordinator and will be soliciting volunteers via Sign-up Genius.

9. **Request for Funds:**
    a. Author Signing – Ben Salinas motioned that the PTO busy autographed book copies for each classroom, the Library, and Title I not to exceed a total of $400. Jen Oesterling seconded. Motion passed.
    b. Rich Schmidt inquired about funding for the Harrisburg field trip – which includes the bus and museum fees. Heather Ross confirmed that the money has already been allotted and falls into the budget.
    c. Rich Schmidt motioned that the PTO buy Corl Street shirts for the (4) intramural coaches. Phil Vollmer seconded. Motion passed.

10. **Old Business:** Linda Erickson continues to review and update the PTO website. Heather Ross and Jen Taylor will get together to determine the details of selling 'gently used' Corl Street apparel.

    There was a discussion about doing a food drive. All agreed that the teachers should not be held responsible for collecting food. Heather Ross will talk with Penn Skates and the Dodgeball committees re: collecting food/donations at these events. Wendy Stapleton motioned that we collect household items at the Penn Skates and Dodgeball Tournament for the Housing Transitions, Inc. Jennifer Oesterling seconded. Motion passed. Heather Ross will also get a list of needed items from Housing Transitions to share with families.

11. **Adjournment:** Heather Ross adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m.