

PTO MINUTES May 16, 2019

Members Present: Caren Chaffee- President, Liane Roy- Vice-President, Jennifer Duff- Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Erin Mastroianni- Secretary, Tiffany Hsu- Treasurer, Paul Pietrantone, Sandy Silver, Amy Wierer, Kathy Bielecki, Amy Mumbach, Elaine Hackford, Mike Pici, Kylene Nungesser

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 2:04

Special Presentation *Jeffrey Petrus, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services*

Vote May 21 at the High School 7a-9p. Budget and school board representatives. The budget was developed with input from the school board and administrators. Took a look at efficiencies and always looking for ways of doing things cheaper etc.electricity. For more information, please visit <https://www.opschools.org/Page/15>

President's Report *Caren Chaffee*

Thank yous were received for the PTO from students for various activities. Central Council PTO has a couple of positions available. Also, some people are needed to participate in harassment training committee to explore how to integrate information onto the website. Next year Treasurer Tiffany Hsu will be in year 2. If you or someone you know is interested in being treasurer, please contact us so we can start filling you in. We will be honoring Jessica Merry as the Ellicott volunteer of the year. Jess does a lot here at Ellicott and we will be honoring her at a nice dinner.

Principal's Report *Mr. Pietrantone*

Thank you to the PTO for the wonderful very appreciated lunch. Thank you all for volunteering and for your support. This is a busy time of the year here with FASTBridge Screening, Concert assemblies and Fun Days up ahead.

Treasurer's Report *Tiffany Hsu*

If you need an reimbursement forms, please submit them with original receipt by 6/14. Forms are on the website under PTO.

Teachers' Report *Mrs. Silver, Mrs. Hackford*

Kindergarten: Thank you Ellicott PTO for the lovely appreciation luncheon! It was so fabulous as always. We also enjoyed all the pleasant surprises from our students throughout the week. It made the week very special!

As we wrap up the end of the year, we have lots of exciting things going on! We are looking forward to our field trip this week to see Dragons Love Tacos! Thank you for your generous contribution. We can't wait! Our Kindergarten Fun Day will be on June 5th. The rain date is June 12th. We hope our Kindergarten families are able to join us in all the fun! Our last Craft party will be on June 11th. Thank you to all our volunteers that helped out this year! Our Kindergarten Celebration will be on June 18th at 1:45. All are welcome to attend! Lastly, Mr. Morton visits with his Petting Zoo on June 19th. Thank you for your support this school year!! It was a great year celebrating Ellicott!

First Grade: loves tacos! We are so excited to be going to the play, that's based on the book, Dragons Love Tacos on 5/17. The students have listened to the book and worked on some activities that are preparing them for this experience. Thank you PTO for helping to fund this trip. First grade has enjoyed the video taping of "This is the Greatest School". The students looked awesome in the color coordinated Ellicott shirts. Thanks again PTO! Thank you for the Book Fair too! We LOVED shopping for books! There was a GREAT selection and it was a terrific opportunity to get books in the spring to prepare for summer reading! Even though the end of the year is around the corner we are still VERY busy in all our subject areas. We also want to thank PTO not only for the AMAZING lunch but for the "specialty" items including GLUTEN FREE, VEGAN and VEGETARIAN choices. Not only were there sandwiches and salads for these individuals, but desserts for some, as well. In addition, the PRIZES were cool, too

Second Grade: wants to give a BIG THANK YOU to the PTO for such a wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week! Thank You cards, school supplies, sweets, and flowers from the kiddos was SO thoughtful! The AMAZING luncheon was so generous and very much appreciated! Thank you so much! We also loved the Book Fair! So many kids walked away with great books that they couldn't wait to start reading! :) We are looking forward to the upcoming Fun Days as we approach the end of the school year!

Third Grade:

As the school year is coming to an end, we wanted to thank the PTO for their continued support of our classroom learning. Field trips really add to the book learning they do in class. The student really enjoy going to dig in the dirt and rocks at Penn Dixie and having the "Butterfly Man" presentation and his amazing displays come to Ellicott.

In ELA and science, the students are finishing up a computer project comparing their two researched animals. They have learned so much about digging deeper and asking questions about what they are learning. Next our social studies and ELA curriculums will focus on the similarities and differences in countries around the world.

Thank you PTO for all you do to make Ellicott the "Greatest School"!

Fourth Grade:

As we near the end of NYS testing, the 4th grade students are enjoying a lot of fun and educational activities. We recently went on a field trip to Old Fort Niagara. It was really neat to see the fort and how soldiers lived during the American Revolution. We're also getting ready to go on our final field trip of the year to Mumford Museum. Here we will have the opportunity to tour the museum and get a feel for life in Colonial New York. Since the NYS Science test is

right around the corner, we're busy preparing and reviewing for that as well. We have a fun and educational day of science experiment stations planned so that we can go into the performance test ready and confident! A BIG thank you to the PTO who always go above and beyond for us and help to truly make it THE GREATEST SCHOOL!

Fifth grade: We have completed the state tests and are excitedly looking forward to Music in May concerts. The fifth graders enjoyed the second book fair. We would like to thank the PTO for all they have done for us this school year from helping out with our DARE graduation and our Moving up Day ceremony to our field trips and our day at Darien Lake. The fifth graders have had a wonderful school year thanks to the support of the PTO.

Library: The news from the library is we have just added ebooks and audiobooks to our collection. It's another fun way to read and listen to books. It also lets us instantly add a popular book anytime we want.

We will be sending out an announcement and guide soon, but if anyone wants to get started now you just have to download the Sora app (it's made by Overdrive) and log in with their students google password and username. More to come!

Reading Dept. We are going to skip the Book Swap this year due to all the 50th activities and events going on this year.

Music News

(from Mrs. Feldman) We had 6 Ellicott band students perform solos at the NYSSMA solo festival at Frontier HS the first weekend of May. All of our students received ratings of Excellent or Outstanding! Our Music In May Concert will be held Monday, May 20th at the OPHS, with the Beginner, Advanced and Jazzpalooza performing.

(From Mrs. Holden) The music room is very busy this Spring!

This week we have our Chorus concert on Thursday, with a morning performance for students and an evening concert at 7pm at the Middle School.

Next week, we start rehearsals for the District Chorus that will perform on our District Showcase concert on June 6th. The following week 5th graders will rehearse and perform at the Shea's Junior Theater Celebration at Shea's 710 Theater, June 1st.

5th graders are also preparing two songs for their end of the year celebration and the Kindergarteners are learning songs for their celebration, as well.

We are wrapping up our ukulele unit with 4th grade and the recorder unit with 3rd grade.

2nd graders are working on solo singing with our patriotic songs, and 1st graders have been creating and writing their own rhythm patterns to share with the class and bring home to read to parents.

I'm still working on SeeSaw portfolios for grades K-2 and hope to have them up and running by the end of the school year, so that we can build on them next year!

Finally, we will choose and announce next year's musical in June and give the 4th graders a "sneak peek" at the show before the summer.

Our Greatest School video project is in the editing stage and we hope to release the video to our Ellicott community by the end of the month! We are all very excited to see how it comes together. :)

April in Computer Lab: Many of the sites I mention can be found at my website:

www.mrsstott.com.

Kindergarten:

We used a program called “**Clifford Phonics**”. The students used sight words and rhyming words to create a float for a parade at the end of a carnival. We also started learning how to use **Google slides**. We'll create one slide for a class slide show.

First Grade:

We worked with our school's **Blue Bots**. We learned how to code them to move around a grid to get to a specific picture. We also started using **Code.org** to learn how to code using “blocky” coding. They can access this anytime from my Grade 1 page on mrsstott.com. We even made a special picture/message for Mom using **Pixie 4**.

Second Grade:

All of our Community projects are done. They did a wonderful job! We are now starting to learn about using the home row and typing using the proper fingers. We'll go slowly with this for the rest of the year. We are using **Typing.com**. If your child wants to practice this at home, they have to be logged in to their Google account. See the “Chrome at Home” page on my website for instructions. When using it at home, they need to go slow and remember to use the “home row” position at all times.

Third Grade:

We had lots of fun using our **Lego WeDo 2.0** robotics kits. They made a Spy Robot and the Cooling Fan. They had to be good problem solvers and work together as a group. They did a great job! We also started a Spring acrostic poem using **Google Docs**.

Fourth grade:

We used a program called “**Virtual Labs Electricity**”. We experimented with creating our own circuits. Then we had to create 3 working circuits: a simple circuit, a series circuit, and a parallel circuit.

Fifth Grade:

We went into our **Google Drive** to organize our files. We created folders, checked for and/or deleted untitled documents and made our drive ready for use next year in 6th grade. We then learned more about Internet Safety by using Google **Interland** and **FBI: Cyber Surf Islands**.

Parent Volunteer Coordinator's Report Jennifer Duff

Thank you so much for your time and for volunteering. Popsicles have been ordered for Fun Days that begin next week.

Committees

Communications: Email/Newsletter/Social Media *Liane Roy, Caren Chaffee*

Final newsletter. Deadline is next week.

Gardens and Grounds *Tina Bauer*

Murray Brothers donated rocks for the fifth grades to paint so they can leave their marks here at Ellicott. The teachers will be doing the painting with the classes. Currently are working on cleaning up the garden and working on the planters.

Wrap Up Reports

Spring Book Fair *Alexis Knavel, Jackie Westlund*

Wednesday after school did not have a lot of help to get set up. It took until about 5:30pm. Thursday during the day lots of volunteers. During the art show there was a steady flow of people. Really do not need volunteers at this time because parents help their kids out. Friday after the book fair did not have a lot of help. Next year we need to send the signup out earlier. Mr. Silver did cover some students who did not have enough money and asked them to do a good deed. We get 20% of the proceeds. Total sale around \$6017. Profit around \$1300. The Fall profited about \$1600. Great results for a last minute fundraiser!

Staff Appreciation Luncheon (5/10) *Lauren Russo, Erica Wahl*

Went very well. Catered by the Poppyseed with fruit salad and desserts provided by parents. Bills gear was donated as door prizes.

Representatives

BET Update *Erin Mastroianni, Kathy Bielicki, Paul Pietrantone*

Nothing new to report. Next meeting 5/20.

Board of Education *Julie Marzolf, Paul Pietrantone*

Last meeting was about the board members and election. 2 seats are available out of 3. Community education brochure has the information on the candidates.

PTO Project Update and Vote

School Library Donation *Tiffany Hsu*

Every couple of years the PTO chooses an area of the school to donate additional funds to. This year the library will be the benefactor. There will be a furniture update of approximately 10-13,000\$. The purchases will be made in conjunction with Mr. Fallon and Mr. Pietrantone. Chairs, tables floor chairs.

Kylene Nungesser made a motion to approve. Liane Roy made a motion to second. Motion approved.

VOTE

2019-2020 PTO Positions

Motion to approve the slate was made by Amy Mumbach. Mrs. Hackford made a motion to second. Slate approved.

2019-2020 PTO Budget

Motion to approve the slate made by Tina Bauer. Jenni Duff motioned to second. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned 3:02.

Minutes submitted by Erin Mastroianni