

PTO MINUTES January 10, 2019

Board Members Present: Tiffany Hsu- Treasurer, Jennifer Duff- Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Erin Mastroianni- Secretary

PTO Members: Mary Claire Vivian, Kylene Nungesser, Marisa Beechler, Elaine Hackford, Kathy Bielecki, Carrie Andruszko, Heidi Suffoletto, Paul Pietrantone

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 6:31.

Special Presentation: DARE Officer Kristen Mazur, Orchard Park Police Department

Officer Mazur thanked the PTO for their generous support. She is going to all elementary PTO's to introduce herself, the program, and answer any questions. She has been in the OP Police Department for over 6 years and has spent over 4 years teaching DARE. In 2006, NYS stopped funding DARE. The Orchard Park community including schools, town, police, teachers, and businesses has been very generous in allowing the program to continue. DARE education includes drugs and alcohol and also includes stress, bullying, internet safety, summer safety, social media. She is able to tailor the program to meet the needs of specific schools in OP. The fifth graders have a 15 week program and graduation will be on January 18. She also builds relationships with children in other grades. High school kids come in and give out information. A current problem in OP schools is e-cigs, specifically the brand Juul. Officer Mazur uses her time to educate kids and parents about how to keep safe and ways of saying no. Any questions, Mr. Pietrantone or Caren Chaffee can pass on her email address.

President's Report Caren Chaffee

1. Book Fair

- We are hoping to hold a second Book Fair this year, in the spring
- Target date is Thursday, May 9; Our hope is to pair it with the Art Show
- This will only happen if we have someone to chair it
- We are looking for two chairs for this event - Please let one of the Board members know if you're interested, or call or email Caren

2. Follow up from last meeting

- There were some suggestions to start a collection to pass on to kids and/or families who may need some additional financial support to participate in events
- Similar questions/ situations have come up at other schools in the district, so there has been a great deal of discussion at Central Council PTO about this over the past few months
- We have been instructed by Central Council (our body of oversight) that giving PTO funds to individual members is in violation of our charter and puts our 501c3 (non-profit) status at risk

- There has been some discussion about other ways the needs of students and families in need can be met. These discussions are ongoing and will involve teachers and administrators as well as PTOs.

3. 2019-2020 Slate

- We are starting the nominations process, which typically takes several months
- Last year, we put together brief descriptions of each position to help members make informed decisions about what interests them. These have been sent to the current chairs for their review and to make any changes they think are necessary
- We are required to cycle out of positions after two years. (The exception to this is Science Night, as this is a huge event. These chairs stay on for three years.)
- Positions which will likely be open because current chairs have been in their positions for two years and will be cycling out include:
 - Vice President (Board position)
 - Secretary (Board position)
 - Apparel
 - Box Tops
 - Directory/ Membership
 - Dr. Seuss Day
 - Building Effectiveness Team (BET)
 - Ice Cream Social
 - Halloween Dance
 - Nominations
 - Science Night
 - Square One
 - Walk for Ellicott
- Other positions may open up as well, as there may be individuals who either do not want to continue in the position for their second year or they may be unable to continue
- Next step: Current chairs entering their second year in 2019-2020 will be contacted to confirm whether or not they want to continue in their position for the second year
- Once this is done, we will send the list of open positions out
- In the meantime, if anyone has interest in a position, please let a Board member know

4. High School fundraiser

- The HS PTO raises funds all year for the Post-Prom Party, which they hold each year so the kids have a safe option after the prom. Link to the flyer will be included in the newsletter -- Must have a copy of it or a picture on your phone in for the sale to count
- Three restaurant events:
 - Friday, January 18 11:00 am -10:00 pm at Moe's
 - Tuesday, January 29 4:00-8:00 at Panera

- Tuesday, February 5 4:00-8:00 at Chipotle

5. The More Than Sad Presentation event will be held on Jan 15th at OPHS and on Jan 31st at OPMS. Both events are from 6:30pm-8PM. All parents and community members are invited to attend this presentation. There will be a refreshment area at the conclusion of both presentations to invite people to have a warm place to stay on and ask questions, get support or just to linger. If you can help set things up around 5:30 at the OPMS please let Tracy Brege know.

Principal's Report *Mr. Pietrantone*

Thank you to the PTO for the holiday treats. Practice for the 5th grade Musical is well-underway. It will be February 12 and 13. There is early dismissal 1/18 for Professional Development. DARE graduation is 1/18. Universal screening is occurring in January for all grades K-5.

Treasurer's Report *Tiffany Hsu*

There have been no changes. See report.

Teachers' Report *Mrs. Hackford*

Thank you to the PTO for all of the support!

Kindergarten: The children are very excited about the upcoming PTO movie night and our Ellicott school spirit day this Friday! Mr. Morton visits this week with a cute hedgehog. On January 30th our classes will enjoy a Winter Craft Day. Thank you to our volunteers that are coming in to help out! Our themes this month are winter animals, the season of winter, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

First Grade has jumped right back into school with and are beginning our Nonfiction units in Reading and Writing. These next months are huge in first grade. Along with learning how to best read nonfiction books the boys and girls will WRITE a nonfiction chapter book. The students will choose a wild animal, research it in computer class, library class, and in their classrooms. Then they will write chapters about the different things they learned about their wild animal. The students will also do many other projects and present them in an animal museum in their classrooms on the same night as science night. (We love science night! Thanks PTO!) I'm sure future updates will include our progress through these units. We will also be enjoying learning about nutrition through the Milk Magician that comes to us at the end of this month. (THANK YOU PTO!)

2nd Grade is so excited to have a visit from Explore & More on January 11th! The kids will get to "tinker" with various objects and create new structures! Thank you to the PTO for funding this fun experiencing for our students! :)

3rd Grade: The 3rd graders entered into the New Year by wrapping up our Non Fiction unit in Reader's Workshop. The next unit, Character Studies, will begin with a favorite story, Because of Winn Dixie. In Math, most of the 3rd graders are exploring measurement, rounding, place value, and word problems. In Social Studies, we will be exploring the United States

Government. Science is varied, depending on the classroom unit of study. The 3rd graders are anxious to embrace the winter weather, so please send in warm clothes for recess! Happy New Year!

4th Grade: Thank you PTO for your generous contribution to our Science Museum field trip. We had a blast learning about different kinds of weather and were able to make some neat connections to our nonfiction Reading Workshop unit on Extreme Weather. We're excited to begin our new unit on the American Revolution!

5th Grade: Prior to the break, the fifth graders were busy with concerts and our Reading Around the World event which included a reading invasion and Mystery Readers from the High School and our Administrative staff. In January, the kids will be getting ready for the Musical which is always so exciting! We are completing a unit in Reader's Workshop that pushes the kids to dig more deeply into fiction books with a focus on character and theme. We are starting a new science unit that asks the question of "How Can We Provide Freshwater to Those in Need?" In this unit, the kids will be building water pumps and filters to clean water. Our DARE Graduation will take place on January 18 and we thank the PTO for all of their assistance with this event!

December Computer Lab News:

Kindergarten: We began a new program called www.ReadingEggs.com. We took a short quiz before playing so we would be playing the reading/phonics games at our own level. Parent letters were sent home so students could access this (and many other sites) at home, at any time. We also used www.ABCya.com and www.santatracker.google.com to do some holiday activities.

Grade 1: Parent letters were sent home with information on how students could access many of our paid websites at home, at any time. We learned about Holidays in England, Mexico, France, Greece, Germany, and Israel. We created a "Holidays Around the World" booklet using Pixie4. We also used www.santatracker.google.com to do some holiday activities.

Grade 2: We began using a new math site called Prodigy. A parent letter went home explaining it. We used activities in Abcya.com to practice using 2 hands to type these sentences (left hand on the left, right hand on the right). We also used www.santatracker.google.com to do some holiday activities that mainly included computer coding: Code a snowflake and Code Lab. The student did very well with this.

Grade 3: We began a new program called ReadingEggspress. It is the older student version of ReadingEggs. We took a short quiz before playing so we would be playing the reading/comprehension/spelling games at our own level. Parent letters were sent home so students could access this (and many other sites) at home, at any time. We also used www.santatracker.google.com to do some holiday activities that mainly included computer coding: Code a snowflake, Code Lab, and Code Boogie. We wrote code to make an elf dance or move through a maze and created a snowflake with code.

Grade 4: We completed a Plant project using Google Slides. We completed slides by identifying the different parts of a seed, a plant, and a bee. We also wrote what they need or how they help. We then reviewed ReadingEggspress.com. Parent letters were sent home with information on how students could access many sites at home, at any time. We also used

www.santatracker.google.com to do some holiday activities. Many of them involved computer coding. We wrote code to make an elf dance or move through a maze and created a snowflake with code.

Grade 5: We worked on a site called Everfi. It is an NHL sponsored site that shows how math and science skills are used in hockey. We also used www.santatracker.google.com to do some holiday activities. Many of them involved computer coding. We wrote code to make an elf dance or move through a maze and created a snowflake with code.

Parent Volunteer Coordinator's Report *Jennifer Duff*

Students can wear their Ellicott t-shirts tomorrow. An email will be coming out from MySchool Anywhere with the updated volunteer opportunities.

Committees

Membership/Directory (My School Anywhere) *Kimberly Penn, Carrie Stromecki*

A few more families joined.

T-Shirts and 50th Spirit Apparel *Erin Craumer, Mary Claire Vivian*

A huge thank you to Erin and Mary Claire for pulling this together in time! They did a great job making it happen! It was noted it would be best to not tie the apparel sale in with the Holiday season. There was not a huge demand for items to be in for Christmas. It would be best to do it earlier in the year and with a larger time frame so reminders could be sent out. There was approximately \$1500 in items sold. Also, one vendor would make communication easier.

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

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is January 11, tomorrow.

Wrap Up Reports

Square One Art *Heidi Suffoletto*

Approximately \$980 in profit. Spring would be a better time, so it was suggested to move it back to the Spring. We will look into signing up in advance for the sale for next year so we can obtain more benefits.

PJ Day (11/20) *Rachna Clerici*

\$516 was collected for the Make a Wish Foundation

Upcoming Events and Activities

Movie Night (1/18) *Kim Murray*

Doors open at 6:15. Movie begins at 6:30. Gnomeo and Juliet. Allergy friendly options will be available.

Spring Chocolate Sale (2/7-2/27) *Amy Mumbach and Tina Bauer*

The candy sale begins February 7th so materials will be distributed the day before that. We will be getting our catalogs mailed to us on January 22nd.

Dr. Seuss Day (3/1) *Erin Schneckenberger, Erin Mastroianni*
Planning is underway

Family Fun Night (3/1) *Marissa Beechler, Lindsay Messore, Brigid McCann, Erin Schneckenberger (baskets)*
Plans have begun. Stay tuned for more information.

Authors Visit March 18-22 *Barb Lesh, Brigid McCann*

The author is Alicia Klepeis (<https://aliciaklepeis.com/>). She writes primarily nonfiction, with a wide variety of topics covered including biographies, animals, countries, etc. Her visit will be March 18-22. She'll do larger presentations for all of the grades, then grades 2 through 5 with get workshops with her in their classrooms. The kids will get the chance to have lunch with her and each teacher will chose which students at their own discretion.

Science Night (3/28) *Seshi Campbell, Kristi Crawford, Laurin Derrick, Kim Murray*

The date is March 28. There is always a need for many volunteers. Please consider giving an hour of your time. As with every year, volunteers are what makes Science Night a success. We would especially love it if parents of 5th graders could volunteer. There will be 1 and 2 hour volunteer slots available. We have so many awesome exhibitors coming and are working on a quicker entry into the event. Thanks!

Box Tops *Carrie Andruszko*

Look for the next collection within the next month. Prizes are to be determined.

Representatives

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

We discussed transitions for new families outside of entering Kindergarten families. A survey was sent out to approximately 40 families and results are pending. Next BET meeting is 1/28.

Board of Education *Julie Marzolf, Paul Pietrantone*

The Smart Schools Bond Act was discussed. Cameras will be added, specifically to the outside. A presentation from the Orchard Park Police Department introducing the new School Resource Officer. Budget season is upcoming and more conversations will be forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned. Next PTO meeting is Thursday, February 7 at 2pm.

Minutes submitted by Erin Mastroianni