

PTO MINUTES October 9, 2018

Board Members Present: Caren Chaffee- President, Liane Roy- Vice President, Tiffany Hsu- Treasurer, Jennifer Duff- Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Erin Mastroianni- Secretary

Welcome Caren Chaffee

Meeting called to order at 6:40.

Special Presentation: District Safety and Security *Mr. Petrus*

The needs of the OP facilities are being anticipated for the long term. A committee was given the responsibility of developing a 10 year long range facilities plan. This draft plan has 3 pieces totaling \$52.2 million- November 2018 vote(\$12.2 million on safety and security), Fall 2020 vote (est. \$13 million), and Fall 2022 vote (est. \$27 mill) with very little new impact on property taxes. Tuesday, November 13, 2018 the vote is in the OPHS gym from 7a-9p. Use Freeman Road entrance. This safety and security changes will include a secure entry vestibule at all schools, roofs that need to be replaced, and masonry work projected to start in summer 2020.

President's Report Caren Chaffee

Thank you to the teachers support, 100%of teachers have joined the PTO. Many open board positions next year. All are 2 year positions. Co-positions are a possibility. We need to discuss a transition plan to stagger positions for the transition. Please consider and reach out with questions. There will be another membership push. There is no obligation to the PTO to volunteer or attend meetings once you join! We've had a busy start to the year. A break is coming in our activities so we may have some activities to get kids involved, etc.

Principal's Report Mr. Pietrantone

Thank you to Mrs. Duff for the orientations. The ice cream social was a great evening. Thank you to the PTO support for the Homecoming parade. We have a valued partnership with the Hillcrest fire department. K-4 will have the smokehouse and Gr 5 puts a propane fire out with fire extinguishers. We are preparing 50th anniversary plans, including a bulletin board. We will have a drone take a picture of the students in the school in the shape of a 50 pending a break in the weather. Superintendents conference day is October 29. Veterans Day is coming up- we will have breakfast for veterans and child(ren) on a separate day. We will also have an assembly with students and maybe people from the VFW. We are collecting pictures for our "hero" wall. The PTO contributes \$200 to the breakfast and faculty and staff contribute baked goods which is all appreciated.

Treasurer's Report Tiffany Hsu

See report. We had good income from our events. If you plan to purchase anything for an event, please check the PTO closet first as we have lots of tickets and utensils, etc.

Teachers Report Mrs. Clader
Kindergarten

Our Kindergartners loved the Walk for Ellicott and they especially enjoyed earning their bracelets along the way! We had fun shopping for new books at our Ellicott Book Fair. Mr. Morton visited last month with a baby goat and this month he will be bringing in creepy crawlies. Many of our students are looking forward to attending the Halloween Dance. Kindergarten families are invited to our Fall Song Fest on Wednesday, October 31st at 2:00 P.M. In Reader's Workshop, we are learning about "Learn About the World Books" & "Old Favorite Storybooks." As readers we are learning to look, think, read, and reread to learn more. In Math, we counting quantities and comparing lengths. We will be developing strategies for accurately counting quantities to 10 and showing written representation of our counting. Please continue to practice and review your child's life skills. For the first marking period you child will need to be able to identify their phone number and home address. Thanks for your help!

First grade is busy busy busy! We had a great time on that beautiful walk a thon day. Thank you PTO for the bracelets and the wonderful organization! We got our Ellicott Elementary shirts and can't wait to wear them. Thank you for organizing them by child. It made them so easy to pass out! This week we are going to the Fire House and reviewing important Fire Safety Rules. Halloween is also coming and that means we will be going to sing at assisted living facilities to celebrate and to give back to our community. The first grade teachers have teamed up again to create a themed costume based on a wonderful series of books but....shhhhh it's a secret. We are also moving right along in all of our subject areas and are ready for the relief of some crisp fall weather! Thank you for all of your support PTO!

2nd grade LOVED participating and supporting the Walk For Ellicott! We are looking forward to all the PTO events this year! We also greatly enjoyed the Ice Cream Social and Book Fair! Thanks for making Ellicott so fun!

The *4th grade* had a great time at the Walk For Ellicott! Thank you so much for a wonderful event, and a BIG thank you for our t-shirts. They look great! Also, Mrs. Collins and Mr. Englert's class was chosen to attend the NFL Play 60 Kickoff Party at the Buffalo Bills AdPro Training facility. The students had a wonderful time listening to the sounds of Kevin McCarthy, dancing and exercising with various Bills players, and playing a Healthy Habits Game Show. They are all very excited about participating in Play 60 for the remainder of the year!

October Computer Lab News: We've had a great start to the year!

Kindergarten: We continue to progress in learning how to login using our 900# and PW. We are working hard to learn mouse skills: holding it properly, clicking, and dragging. We used "A to Zap" to practice our alphabet skills. We are now working on using www.Starfall.com to explore letters, numbers and colors.

******I can always use a couple extra hands with the Kindergarteners, so please sign up for volunteer training if you would like to help out in the computer lab!!

Grade 1: We will continue to review our mouse skills, opening and closing programs, and logging off properly. We logged in to LumioEducation.com to practice some math skills. We are

now using “Clifford Learning Activities” to practice computer/mouse skills as well as patterns, sorting, simple addition, and rhyming.

Grade 2: We used NetSmartzKids.org to learn how to be safe online. We practiced some keyboarding skills using Typtastic.com. We logged in to LumioEducation.com to practice some math skills. We are now starting a yearlong research activity using PebbleGo.com. We will be typing facts we learned from this site and put it in our own words.

Grade 3: We used NetSmartzKids.org to learn how to create a strong and safe password, how to be safe online, how to protect our computers from a virus. (Did you update your anti-virus software?). We also learned how to access their Chrome account at home. See “Chrome at Home” on my website for more details. We will began using Typing.com from the Keyboarding page of my website to introduce and practice using the “home row” keys and proper fingering while keyboarding. It is a good idea to practice for 5-10 minutes a few days a week at home to learn good keyboarding habits.

Grade 4: We used NetSmartzKids.org to learn how to be safe online and how to protect our computers from a virus. (Did you update your anti-virus software?) We also learned about Ergonomics and how to use the computer using the correct posture and body position. We will began using Typing.com from the Keyboarding page of my website practice using the “home row” keys and proper fingering while keyboarding. It is a good idea to practice for 5-10 minutes a few days a week at home to learn good keyboarding habits.

Grade 5: We used NetSmartzKids.org to learn how to be safe online, how to protect our computers from a virus, how to create a strong and safe password and how to use “good netiquette” when talking with someone online. We are using Typing.com this year to further our keyboarding skills. They are making wonderful progress. It is a good idea to practice for 5-10 minutes a few days a week at home to learn good keyboarding habits. We also used a program called “Cross Country USA 2”. It uses map skills and our country’s geography to deliver Commodities to different cities around the USA.

Music

The music room is buzzing with the sounds of drums, xylophones, singing and foot-tapping dances! :)

The *Kindergarteners* are preparing Halloween songs for their upcoming performance.

First graders are moving, singing, chanting and playing simple classroom instruments in major and minor tonalities.

The *second graders* are learning to read and write rhythm patterns in duple meter.

Third Graders are improvising (creating their own) rhythm patterns and reading triple meter rhythm patterns. Third graders also have been working on singing small solos in class.

Our *fourth and fifth graders* learned a Halloween song, “The Ghost of John” and then accompanied each other with the xylophones and other barred instruments. 4th and 5th graders are also working on solo singing and reading both rhythm and tonal music notation.

All students will be reviewing patriotic songs soon for our upcoming Veteran's Day celebration, as well.

The 4th and 5th grader chorus started rehearsing at the end of September and is sounding great! We are looking forward to sharing the holiday concert with our Ellicott community! This year's musical, Junie B. Jones, Jr., will begin with auditions in late November or early December. The musical team is meeting next week to put together a production schedule. Details will come home in early November with permission slips. The fall is flying by and I'm thrilled with the musical progress our students are making so far!

Parent Volunteer Coordinator's Report *Jennifer Duff*

Room parent orientation was tonight. Emailed committee chairs, room parents, board members who have yet to complete the training or checked off on it.

Committees

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

We have over 200 members with few glitches. It's running smoother than last year. If you have paid for membership and are having difficulty accessing My School Anywhere, please contact Kim or Carrie because sometimes problems occur and it's a simple fix!

T-Shirts *Kim Murray, Erin Craumer*

Last few classes of t-shirts are coming tomorrow. We will have 50th anniversary t-shirts, long sleeve, and hoodies that we will be selling as a fundraiser. Thank you to the Wellness committee for organizing the Ellicott spirit wear days

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

Newsletter comes from the PTO and is sent out by the school. Deadline is 10/12.

Garden and Grounds *Mike Pici, Tina Bauer*

This is a new undertaking and the garden has been neglected for some time. Communication between teachers past and current has been helpful. Entryway plants have been done. 3 benches were made by Mike Pici for the garden. The goal is to have story time for K, 1, and 2 or to have more classes utilize the space and make it a place teachers and students want to be.

Wrap Up Reports

Walk for Ellicott (9/28) *Nicole Chelus, Jennifer Coppola*

Total raised was \$15591. Last year was approx. \$13500. The highest class participation and most raised by individuals per grade have been sent to be photocopied and distributed. The winners will also be announced on ELTV.

Square One Art (9/28-10/11) *Heidi Suffoletto, Robyn Loehfelm*

Artwork is due tomorrow, although there is a few day grace period.

Picture Day (10/01) *Gina Stavisky, Sarah Jahnke*

Picture day went smoothly. It helps to have the parents there helping.

Ice Cream Social (10/02) *Anne-Marie Asci, Kathy Bielicki, Julie Cutolo*

Last year 400 tickets were sold. This year, over 600 tickets. There were over 100 walk-ins but, luckily, there was enough ice cream. There are some extra so they can be used for the Halloween dance. Allergy-friendly table served maybe 10-12 people. The toppings set to the side and being poured by the helpers resulted in a better flow and less waste. Thank you to the teachers, administrators and parents for helping. In the future, we need more raised signs for allergy and non-allergy. Kids need to be kept off of the stage. Although this wasn't a fundraiser, we have approx. \$460 extra.

Book Fair (10/2-10/3) *Ren Choroser, Susan McNeill*

PTO proceeds were \$1490. My School Anywhere was used to gather volunteers. Next time we've learned to not call it "preview night" if its not previewing books. A question was raised to start instituting "Ellicott bucks" or something similar to distribute money to kids and families who cannot afford it.

Upcoming Events/Activites

Halloween Dance (10/19) *Staci Cramer, Marisa Beechler*

Planning is in full swing. Currently it is a numbers game while awaiting responses in order to make purchases. Pre-sale tickets only. The flier is out. Will need volunteers via My School Anywhere. While planning, the results of the survey from the summer were taken into account. There will be a quiet movie in the small cafeteria, dance in the gym, and snacks/crafts in the cafeteria. Instead of a costume contest, students will receive a goody bag upon exiting.

PJ Day (11/20) *Rachna Clerici*

Flier will come out soon.

Box Tops *Carrie Andruszko, Jolene Zeigler*

Bulletin board is ready. Would like to advertise more, including on ELTV. Maybe we can coordinate high school volunteers to help with counting Box Tops.

Representatives

BET Update *Erin Mastroianni, Kathy Bielicki*

Representatives participated in a presentation on shared decision making. Committee roles and goals were reviewed. Goals include: continue to assess recycling program, transitions (K, MS, and new families), school safety, parking and communication.

Board of Education *Julie Marzolf*

Nothing new to report.

Meeting adjourned. Next PTO meeting is Thursday, November 8 at 2pm.

Minutes submitted by Erin Mastroianni