

ELLICOTT PTO MINUTES

April 10, 2018

Board Members Present: Caren Chaffee- President, Jessica Merry- Treasurer, Erin Mastroianni- Secretary, Jennifer Duff- Parent Volunteer Coordinator

Meeting called to order by Caren Chaffee

Special Presentation- *Ryan Cimo*

Ryan Cimo is a candidate running for school board. His wife is on the PTO at Eggert and his son and daughter are on Student Council in Orchard Park schools. The vote is May 15 and his platform is based on school safety and sound budgets. For more information, please look up his website and Facebook pages.

President's Report- *Caren Chaffee*

Thank you notes are available to view for the Musical, Author Visit, and Theater of Youth visit. Happy Clips for Kids is having a fundraiser that will benefit the Ellicott PTO through the month of May. Please support this local business and the Ellicott PTO by bringing your kids for a haircut there! The Board members have begun utilizing the safe snacks list provided by the OP middle school for events.

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

Classroom News

Kindergarten is cruising along by wrapping up our "Bigger Book" unit in Reading Workshop and starting unit 4 that looks at becoming avid readers. We had to postpone Mr. Morton this month due to the testing schedule changes but will be thrilled to see him twice in May. Time just flies when you are getting ready for first grade!

Grade 1 is going wild! We have been very involved in reading and writing nonfiction. The students chose and researched animals in Computer class and are writing about them in their classroom. In Art the students created the animals out of clay. The author visit was so awesome! (THANK YOU PTO!) So we piggybacked on their pourquoi stories using our animal research projects. What is a pourquoi story? It is a fictional story passed down for generations telling how or why something is or how something happened. The students wrote about why their animal has a certain characteristic using this format. They were VERY creative. Thank you for enriching our writing (and reading!) by having these amazing authors come in for a visit! The students will be spending the month of April completing other projects that will be showcased in their classrooms as an Animal Museum on the same night as Science night. This will occur a half hour before Science Night begins so that the families have plenty of time to enjoy both! (WE CAN'T WAIT! THANK YOU PTO!) The celebration of all this work will be when Zoomobile from the Buffalo Zoo (THANK YOU PTO!) comes in and does four centers about the four major animal species- mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians! First Grade is jumping

right back into action and is so thankful for the awesome and enriching programs that the PTO provides!

Grade 2 We loved our Explore & More "Tinkering" in-house presentation in March. The kids had the opportunity to build and play with wood, shapes, a light up board, magnets, and more. We appreciate it very much!

Looking ahead to May, we are excited for both our rescheduled field trip to the Theatre of Youth to go see Stellanina, and our 2nd grade classes will also be going to Tiffy Farms.

Third Grade really enjoyed having the authors visit our school and classrooms! They were great!

Thank you for supporting our ELA curriculum. We also really enjoyed our field trip to the Theater of Youth to see Junie B. is Not a Crook! It was hilarious!

In ELA, we will be starting our next Reader's Workshop Unit called Research Clubs. The children will build on the ideas taught during our non-fiction unit.

In math, we will continue with our fraction unit and review problem solving strategies for multiple step word problems.

Fourth grade is excited to be back from break, refreshed and ready for our final 3 months of the 2017-2018 school year! We would like to thank PTO for bringing Mitch and Martha to Ellicott, as our students loved their workshops. We had a blast learning to story tell with our voices, faces, and bodies. Thank you also for Family Night! It was so great seeing so many fourth graders enjoy the reptiles, arcade games, and dip-n-dot! We have been preparing for our ELA state tests, which will take place later this week, in a new, fun, and productive way which sticks to the fundamentals and structure of Reader's Workshop! The kids have been reviewing their fourth grade skills, while brushing up on test taking and organization skills. We look forward to mid-April, when our Reader's Workshop guide Anna Sheehan visits us from Columbia's Teacher's College. She will be working with both our teachers and students to help us improve our instruction in a hands-on classroom-based way. In math, we are wrapping up fractions and measurement and will begin review for our math state tests pretty soon!

5th grade Our students all thoroughly enjoyed the author presentations before break. They were a wonderful supplement to our reading curriculum.

5th will be taking two trips this month. On Friday, April 20, we will be traveling to Allegany State Park for a wilderness/survival experience. On Monday, April 23, we will be participating in a design workshop at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

We will be purchasing special 5th grade t-shirts to wear for special end of year events. They are \$6 each and will have the students' names on the back.

The **Author Visit Committee** would like to thank the PTO for funding our author visit this year. We are SO grateful for your GENEROUS support! To have TWO authors for a WHOLE WEEK is just AMAZING! They inspired our students to read and write and tell stories. That is just PRICELESS! We also want to thank the parent representatives: Mrs. Lesh, Mrs. Clerisi and Mrs.

Roy for giving of their time and talents to make their visit such a success! We could not do this without their help each year. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Parent Volunteer Coordinator's Report- Jennifer Duff

Currently collecting donation logs for Family Fun night. We are also looking for Science Night volunteers.

Wrap-Up Reports

-Chocolate Sale *Nicole Chelus, Julia Serenka*

Gross sales were approximately \$16000, which is close to the target goal of \$8000 profit.

-Author Visit *Rachna Clerici, Barb Lesh, Liane Roy*

Had a lot of positive feedback both from teachers, students and the authors. The grant for 1000\$ helped fund another day for 5 days.

-Family Fun Night *Michelle Hudak, Sandie Palzcewski, Liane Roy*

Was under budget. 672 people attended, 335 students. We had leftover prizes and crafts- some were returned if they were not opened. A USB with photo booth picks will be passed onto Mr. Pietrantone.

Reports on Upcoming Events

-2018/2019 Nominations/Slate *Caren Chaffee*

Please get in touch by 4/20 to Erin Mastroianni erin_mastroianni@yahoo.com. All are 2 year positions except for Science Night which is three. Family Fun Night may become a three year position.

-Science Night *Liz Duckham, Nicole Avitahl-Curtis, Seshi Campbell, Krissy Crawford*

There have been lots of meetings over the past year. All outside vendors have been confirmed. Krissy and Seshi are working on experiments. There is a large push for volunteers. Will be held 4/26. A Sign Up Genius was emailed out. The science night will have hands on demonstration from the Lego robotics club, UB's Spectrometry club, Reinstein Woods, Museum of Science Star Lab, fifth graders displaying their work, and many more hands on experiments.

-Staff Appreciation Lunch *Erica Wahl, Lauren Russo* Will be 5/11 and catered by the Poppyseed Restaurant. \$7 per person. Ellicott families supply desserts and/or donations. Talk of having a week of small activities to show our appreciation.

Principal's Report- Mr. Pietrantone

The Authors visit was amazing and the authors were a great choice. ELA is coming up and will be two days and Math is in May.

Treasurer's Report- Jessica Merry

See report. There are many outstanding field trips and transportation to come but we will be spending the full amount budgeted.

Updates

-Box Tops *Tiffany Hsu*

The last collection will be in May with a Cinco de Mayo theme.

-BET Update *Erin Schneckenberger, Erin Mastroianni*

We had an update on the Recycling Committee and getting more kids involved. Curriculum initiatives were discussed for upcoming changes in Science, Math and Social Studies to possibly align more with Readers Workshop.

-Board of Education- *Ren Choroser*

Budget adoption is up tonight for the vote. Orchard Park will have some reductions.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting on Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Erin Mastroianni, Secretary.