

Ellicott PTO April 12, 2016
PTO Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Erin Schneckenberger - Secretary

Board Members present:

Tracy Brege, President

Krissie Bonin, Vice-President

Kathy Wiktor, parent volunteer coordinator

Absent:

Erin Schneckenberger, Secretary

Karen Laudico, Treasurer

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order by President Tracy Brege

Buildings and Grounds - Bill Bozinski

PTO would like to fund a track for Ellicott.

Drainage issues were discussed, potential capital fund project to review drainage issue (district would receive a portion of the funding back).

Parent feedback regarding the size of the track, further discussion about the cost of the project and the time frame to complete the track, motion to table the vote to PTO meeting in May.

Principals Report:

Parking issues and pick up at dismissal were discussed, Literacy instruction for grades 3, 4, and 5 implemented in Fall 2016. Running records implementing with 3rd grade over the next few months and with grades 4 and 5 over the next year. Investing \$ to increase classroom libraries, 1 additional literacy coach for district to utilize has been added to the district budget for next year. Thank you to PTO for the Magician and Juggler for grades K, 1 and 2 within the Active 8 program. GAP Elimination, 2.1 million restored to Orchard Park.

University at Buffalo Guest Speaker -

Obesity Prevention - Kelseanna Hollins-Hansen from UB guest speaker, Planet Fit Kids, looking for families to join online study about childhood fitness. One parent and one child ages 8-18 to join study go to www.planetfitkids.org to join

Presidents Report:

Great Erie Federal Credit Union - kids savings program, Theatre of Youth - save 20% on 3 Little Pigs use code: WOLF.

Boys Run On: Adult volunteers needed.

Treasurers Report:

Request copy of updated report.

Teachers report:

PTO Teacher's Report

April 12, 2016

Kindergarten

- Mr. Morton brought two lambs to visit.
- We will be going on a field trip to the Orchard Park Public Library.
- We are also finishing up our unit on weather and are beginning to talk about ways to take care of the Earth and Earth Day.
- In addition, the students will be participating in Nutrition Centers with the different kindergarten teachers.

First grade -

ELA - We are learning about the history of the EARTH in our domains. Will be moving on to Animal Habitats and will have the ZOOMOBILE present to our classes. Thanks for the funds!

Math - We have been learning about and discussing place value.

Science - The children are exploring sand, rocks, fossils and dinosaurs. We are getting excited for Science Night and our Dinosaur Museum to be open on April 28th for parents.

Social Studies - We continue to learn about our community and neighborhoods. The kids have or will be dressing up as their future career.

Writing and Reading - We can't wait for our author to visit. We have been reading many books by him, creating projects related to his stories and are excited to meet him. We're planning a free trip to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery for a program called Arts'cool on May 10.

Second Grade classes are wrapping up our read aloud of Charlotte's Web. Soon we will be learning about Cycles in Nature.

~We are currently trying to schedule a field trip to the Orchard Park Police Station for May. We will update with specifics as soon as the dates get finalized.

~2nd Grade is very excited for the upcoming Author Visit! Be sure to check out our Jerry Pallotta-inspired projects based on his fun book, "What I Saw in the Teachers' Lounge" down at the end of B-Wing!

3rd Grade- The students continue to work hard in third grade. In math, we are learning about fractions and geometry. We are so pleased with the progress the students are making with their math facts. Thank you for your support at home. In ELA, we continue to use the RACE strategy to organize our ideas. We will also be starting our unit on Peter Pan. Students will work on character traits, summarizing, and note taking. In science, the students will learn about the properties of different rocks and minerals. Related to this unit is our field trip to Penn Dixie on May 10th. We would like to thank the PTO for helping to supplement the cost.

4th Grade recently enjoyed a fantastic Maple Sugaring Experience thanks to the PTO bussing our students to the Taylor Road Park in Hamburg. It highlighted the Native American culture we've spent time discussing in our classrooms. We also look forward to another upcoming experience at Old Fort Niagara, which will reinforce the American Revolution concepts taught in class.

Fifth Grade has been working on Motion and Design in science. The 5th graders are learning about the recursive nature of designing vehicles, and they are exploring the effects of forces on their cars. The students are gearing up to start talking about middle school. The OPMS guidance counselor will be coming to speak with them on May 4. Darien Lake day is scheduled for June 16.

From PE dept.:

GeoMotion Learnercise is here!!! The Phys. Ed. Department has already been using it with the primary students to promote and encourage healthy habits (ACTIV8). Even some classroom teachers have been starting to utilize it in their curriculum (i.e. Kim Slocum - Layers of the earth). In the near future, Learnercise will be introduced to the entire Ellicott Staff. Thank You to the P.T.O. for their generous donation to help purchase this program.

Please continue to assist your children in 2nd, 1st, and K with their Activ8 Kids Fitness Program. The response has been fabulous with many students telling us that their parents are doing it too! Although the program officially ends on Monday, we will be collecting the finished sheets through next week, so that any days missed can be made up. So many thanks to you parents and PTO for your support of our healthy programs and for financing our kick off presenter before spring break!

Band News

We have 15 5th Grade Band students preparing to play solos at the NYSSMA Solo Festival at the OPMS on April 22 and 23. Also, our Beginner Band, Advanced Band and Jazz Band are preparing for our Music in May Concerts. Our Ellicott Band School Concert/Dress Rehearsal will take place Thursday, May 12 at 9:30 AM and our evening concert will take place Monday, May 23 at 7:00 PM at the OPHS.

March in Computer Lab: All of the sites I mention can be found at my website:

www.mrsstott.com. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 should be practicing their keyboarding skills at home at least 2 times a week using www.edutyping.com. Students only need to work for 5-10 minutes at a time.

Kindergarten: We began using the program Clifford Phonics. It reviews reading skills (letter recognition, sight words, rhyming, initial letter sounds, etc.) as students move through a carnival and create a carnival float. We also used Pixie4 to practice our math skills. We used tens and ones to create numbers up to 19.

First Grade: We began working on our dinosaur research project. The students researched their dinosaur in the Library. We used that information and typed it into several slides in Pixie4. We are now adding pictures and backgrounds to our slides. All of the slides will be put together as one

big slide show. The slide show will be presented on April 28th during the Dinosaur Museum activities at the PTO Science night.

Second Grade: We began using www.StudyIsland.com. We logged in and took a math pretest. Now we can complete the activities that are set up for us or work on any skills that we want to improve. This is a very motivational program. When students answer the question correctly they get to play a short game. The game score goes on a leader board for our school as well as our state. We also worked more on our Communities projects. We will be finishing and printing these very soon.

Third Grade: As always, we practiced our keyboarding skills using www.EduTyping.com. We continued our graph project using The Graph Club. We created both a bar graph and a pictograph. We added labels and graphics. Then we printed our graphs and answered questions about our graphs.

Fourth grade: As always, we practiced our keyboarding skills using www.EduTyping.com. We used www.eductionCity.com to review our geometry skills. We reviewed using a protractor, calculating complimentary and supplementary angles, and identifying angles. We also began using "Virtual Labs ~ Electricity". We are reviewing how to make a circuit using bulbs, switches, batteries and wires.

Fifth Grade: As always, we practiced our keyboarding skills using www.EduTyping.com. We reviewed internet safety by creating a word cloud in Abycya.com adding words and phrases on using our "NetSmarts". We also used a new site from the FBI that teaches 5th grade students how to be safe online. We took a quiz on line. We all did well!

Nominations:

Some vacancies for volunteers for next year, majority of slate is full. Motion to approve slate: Martha DeLozier, 2nd Krissie Bonin.

Board of Education Report:

See notes on OPSCD website.

Central Council Update:

Looking for president and secretary for next school year. ``Finding Kind'' movie presentation 4/27 at 7 pm.

Science Night - Free event. Exhibitors include, not limited to: OP High School Science Club, Erie County Water Shed, Liquid Nitrogen, and Robot Replica. Please sign up to volunteer via sign up genius.

Author Visit - Jerry Pallotta will be our visiting author 4/26 and 4/27. No writing workshops, grade level presentations. Books available for purchase. Grades 2-5 writing contest to win lunch with the author.

Meeting Adjourned