

Fort Zeller Elementary PTO
December Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Amora Cook, Jodi Horst, Ashley Weiler, Bethany Snyder, Danielle Gingrich, Allison Ebersole, McKenna Kolovani (teacher rep), Michelle Zurick (teacher rep), Kristen Martin, Sarah Derr, Ashley Anspach, Jodi Houck, Kelly Newswanger, and Erin Horning.

Meeting commenced at 6:37 p.m. by Kristen Martin

Kristen started the meeting by thanking all of the PTO members, teachers, and principal for their support since the school year started. She appreciates the commitment and hours volunteering to make our students have the best experiences possible.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Houck

- **Thank you** for the amazing conference meal of soups, salad, and desserts. It was much appreciated by the staff during conferences. The book fair was fantastic having it in the lobby and seeing the students excited about selecting their books. The Gingerbread Shop was amazing seeing the students shopping and allowing for every child to shop, even if they didn't bring money to school. It was very well done and great to be able to hold this event as other schools are not able to.
- **Veterans Day:** We had a wonderful morning celebrating our Veterans. It was well attended and went smoothly
- **Conferences** were well attended.
- **Spring Math Implementation:** Officially started this week. It is a program that helps students with fluency, understanding of concepts, and improve confidence in regards to math. Students are enjoying the activities and have fun.
- **Holiday Spirit Days:** Starts next week. A flyer was sent home with students indicating the special dress up days. Send the days to Kristin to post on PTO social media to remind parents and students.
- **PBIS:** 1700 Bee Cards were filled out through November (this is 300 more than last year at this time. Our referrals (school and bus) are down by about 45%. We had 21 at this time last year, and we have 12 now. The December trait is compassion.

TITLE 1 REPORT: Mrs. Houck

- The reading specialists are extremely grateful for the financial support for Mr. and Mrs. Papp's assembly!! The students enjoyed learning about the process of illustrating and writing books.
- Raiders Read occurred last Thursday. The students listened to the story Gibberish by Young Vo. The story taught our students the importance of showing compassion, which is December's character trait.

TEACHER'S REPORT:

- Mrs. Zurick shared that the meal provided at conferences was amazing with the delicious soups and desserts.
- The Book Fair was a great event this year and it helped that the fair was located in the hallway to get the kids more excited about purchasing books.
- Mrs. Zurick also appreciated and enjoyed the Glow Stick Party her students won for raising the most money in the school for the Race for Education event. She mentioned that the kids had an amazing time.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Kelly Newswanger

- Motion for Adoption of the November Meeting Minutes: Kristen Martin 2nd: Sarah Derr

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sara Derr

- Motion for adoption of the November Treasurer's report: Allison Ebersole 2nd: Ashley Anspach

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Assemblies:** Committee Chair, Jodi Horst

- Mikayla's Voice was priced at \$15,000 for an assembly. Discussing it there is no possible way to afford it, so we will not consider this option.
- Middlecreek, however, is a free assembly by donation. They could do a mammal program for the kids and include a segment on the snow geese that are known for migrating to the park.
- We could schedule the assembly sometime in January-March as it is their slow season. Mrs. Houck will provide Jodi with possible dates to schedule it for Fort Zeller.
- Jodi also mentioned the idea of the Ned Yoyo program. Students would have the opportunity to purchase yoyos through the company, then we could have an assembly to show the kids tricks they can do with their yoyos. They also include an anti-bullying theme into the assembly. We will look into this as it is also free, but will look at the calendar to not interfere with other events and the end of the school year.

Book Fair: Committee Chair, Amora Cook

- Total book fair sales - \$6,997.59 (excluding sales tax)
- We will get \$3,548.80 in Scholastic Dollars. This includes adding the \$200 bonus for completed activities and paying out the \$150 fuel surcharge.
- We used \$169.59 worth of Scholastic Dollars at the fair. \$102.65 was spent towards each student getting a book. \$66.94 was spent on the 6 free books given to raffle winners.
- \$130 was donated towards the Book Fair.

- Discuss possibly moving the dates of the spring book fair to coincide with an after school family event. As of right now the dates are March 27-31st, but it can be moved to accommodate a large event held at the school.
- Teachers and volunteers mentioned the idea of having the book fair location in the lobby and hallway was beneficial as the students were excited and were able to purchase books between conferences.
- We unanimously voted to continue providing books to students who do not bring money for the book fair.
- We will have to look at the cost of purchasing the Scholastic News magazines for K-2 in the spring/summer.

Rewards Programs: Committee Chair, *Unfilled*

- **Box Tops** - \$60.30
- **Amazon Smile** - Not sure of the number at this time, but the last deposit on 11/21 was worth \$44.79
- **Smile.amazon.com**-use it for all of your shopping needs! (holiday season is upon us)
- **Coca Cola Gives:** \$34.60 (a suggestion was made to add this fundraising option to the letters sent home to parents and added to the Smore that is sent every month by Mrs. Houck).

Fundraising: Committee Chair, Kristen Martin

- Spirit Wear Update: We made only \$180 on this fundraiser. We have other options and it's difficult to raise money on this when athletic teams are also offering this fundraiser.
- Art to Remember - Date overview- Mrs. Panza has agreed to incorporate this into her art curriculum and we are looking in the month of April to distribute the forms to families in time for Mother's and Father's Day.
- 2023 fundraisers: sub sale- Kristen will look into this after the holidays, coin wars will be held in March again, and punch cards from Dutchway will be in April/May.

Race for Education: Co-Chairs, Amy Shade & Kelly Newswanger

- No updates

Hospitality: Tri-Chairs, Danielle Gingrich, Erin Horning, & Ashley Anspach

- The conference meal was Monday, November 21st for teachers and staff.
- Hospitality is busy planning a holiday surprise treat
- Budget-wise we are doing well and have been saving money by asking for parent donations in order to have money to spend for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Gingerbread Shop: Committee Chair, Allison Ebersole

- The event went really well and Allison was able to purchase more items to have enough for the two-day event. Students and staff thought it went really well.

- 32 students that did not bring money were still able to select items from the \$1 table. A lot of items from previous years were also put out for students to select gifts.
- Most items were reasonably priced and most students did not spend all the money allotted for the day.
- With costs continuing to rise, next year's form sent home with students should indicate a price range of \$2-5.
- We were lacking in volunteers this year, but everyone came together to make it work for the kids.
- We thought of the idea to possibly ask the Raider Readers or the high school National Honors Society members to come and assist us with this event next year.
- Next year, we will have to purchase wrapping paper as we used a lot of it this year.
- Thank you to Ashley Weiler for all of her help in making this event successful. She will be taking over the Gingerbread shop next year.

Memory Book: Committee Chair, Kelly Mohn

- Online ordering is now available. We have already received a few orders. A form will go out advertising the yearbook sale.
- We will still have a cover contest and we all agreed to gift a free yearbook to the student that wins the contest.

Fun in the Sun: Co-Chairs, Erin Horning & Amora Cook

- No update (Spring event)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Roller Skating Party- Saturday, January 28th 9-12 p.m. PTO will cover the cost of renting the rink, but there will be a \$3 rental for regular skates, \$5 for rollerblades. The concession stand will be open to purchase refreshments. A form will go home with students immediately after break to advertise the event.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Spring Book Fair- March 27-31st- Possibly coordinate with another school-wide event for a successful outcome.
- The classrooms at the high school that assisted us with the Race for Education were asked to help wrap the Christmas books for all Fort Zeller students.

Meeting adjourned by Kristen Martin at 7:37 p.m.

*****NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 - 6:30PM**