

Fort Zeller Elementary PTO
April Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 5, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Kristen Martin, Sara Derr, Erin Horning, Danielle Gingrich, Allison Ebersole, Ashley Anspach, Jodi Horst, Jodi Houck, Kelly Newswanger, Kelly Mohn, Mrs. Yocum (teacher rep), and Ms. Wentzel(teacher rep).

Meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. by Kristen Martin

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Houck

- Math/STEM Night- great turnout. It was a wonderful family event. The students and their families had fun with the activities planned by our teachers. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our team for planning/organizing the evening.
- Ag Week-Readers from our HS FFA came over and read with the students.
- Mobile Ag Lab-Thank you for organizing!
- Book Fair was fantastic. Everything went smoothly with the volunteers.
- Spring Break – April 6-11
- Rising Raiders Workshop 4/12 @ Jackson Elementary
- Next week the Keystone Classroom Initiative will be visiting Fort Zeller on 4/13.
- Kindergarten Field Trip – Zoo America on 4/26.
- Kindergarten Registration/Screening (May 2-3)- Mrs. Houck asked if we could advertise and remind parents to register their children for kindergarten. Suggestion of sending flyers to the daycares and preschools in the area. Maybe ask if the ELCO community publication could include it in their next edition.
- PBIS Report

Bee Cards!

- Total: 4,404
- March: 805 (Our highest month this year!)
- February: 732
- Think sheets
 - K-Zero
 - 1st-2
 - 2nd-7

Character Trait: Cooperation

- R.E.A.C.H. Lessons:
 - K: A Little Spot of Happiness
 - 1: A Little Spot of Belonging
 - 2: A Little Spot of Boredom

TITLE 1 REPORT: Mrs. Houck

- March Reading Challenge-There were 86 students who participated in the challenge. They received a pencil and a magnetic bookmark. Also, their name was entered into a drawing to win one of Ame Dyckman's books. We will give away 35 books.
- Battle of the Books assembly with Ame Dyckman via zoom.

- Elementary Poetry Challenge- Flyer went home with students this past Monday (4/03). A poem is hanging in one of our local businesses. There are 18 businesses that are participating. Families and children visit the business, read the poem hanging up, and then get an employee or use the stamp hanging by the poem to prove they visited the business. The challenge ends April 28th. If there are 1-18 signatures, the child gets a poetry book. If they get all 18 signatures, the child will get to choose a \$10 gift card to one of our local restaurants (Sugar Shaker, Ice Shack, Tosco, Bellas, or Justino's). Title 1, Family Engagement Funds, are being used to purchase prizes.
- "Poem A Day"- We are also celebrating poetry by playing a "Poem A Day", which are poems that are read aloud by our Raider Readers. Each day teachers will play a poem for the students to listen to.
- Family Literacy Night scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th. Details will be coming home soon!

TEACHER'S REPORT:

- Thank you for your support and we love the treats you provide to our staff!

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Kelly Newswanger

- Motion for Adoption of the March Meeting Minutes: Sara Derr
- Second: Ashley Anspach

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sara Derr

- Motion for adoption of the March Treasurer's report: Allison Ebersole
- Second: Erin Horning

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **needed new chair for next year

Assemblies: Committee Chair, Jodi Horst**

- Middlecreek Overview: The PA fishing and boat commission may be interested in hosting an assembly-future idea? They may wheel aquariums into the school for the assembly. This would also be an assembly by donation.
- Mobile Ag Lab: April 3-5: Feedback from teachers/staff-Excellent assembly, the kids loved it. Each grade level went well and the kids were very engaged.
- Mobile Ag Lab for next year? Vote and apply for \$600 grant.- Jodi received an email about planning for next year regarding the Mobile Ag Lab and applying for the \$600 grant. Teachers agreed the students love it and to plan it for next year. Jodi, Mrs. Houck and Kristen will complete the paperwork for the grant.
- Holly Serio assembly idea. If we want her to come at the beginning of next year, Jodi offered to book her for the PTO.

Book Fair: Committee Chair, Amora Cook

- Updates coming in May

Rewards Programs: Committee Chair, *Unfilled*

- Box Tops - \$136 July 2022-July 2023

- We did receive our last Amazon deposit since it ended in March.
- Coca Cola Gives: \$61.41
- Coca Cola Gives will end in three months (June 30th), so this takes away another easy no cost profit.
- Rewards programs to search into:
 - Shutterfly, Rutters, and Weis

Fundraising: Committee Chair, Kristen Martin

- Coin Wars Review: \$1638.76
 - Kindergarten - \$637.65
 - First Grade - \$323.81
 - 2nd Grade - \$677.30 **WINNER!**
 - Prizes and supplies were right around \$100. Students were already given the prizes.
 - Last year we raised - 1945
- Art to Remember: orders due Tuesday, April 18th. Flyer for ordering accompanied with the student artwork sample was sent home last week. 18 orders already: \$813 in sales as of now with those orders.
- Gift for Mrs. Panza- Willing to spend \$20 to thank her for assisting us with the fundraiser. Suggestions of Fox Meadows, Phillies apparel or accessories.
- Dutchway-Kristen will contact them next week about the punch card fundraiser for May.

Race for Education: Tri-Chairs, Amy Shade, Kelly Newswanger, & Bethany Snyder

- Looking into online fundraising platforms for the fall.
- Teachers said they do not need new Race for Ed shirts every year.
- Send out an email to teachers asking them to hang onto their previous shirt. We could also offer teachers to purchase a new one if needed.
- More information will be shared at the next meeting as the Race for Ed. committee will be meeting to make decisions for next year.

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

- Celebrate Paraprofessional day: Monday, April 3
- Plans for Teacher Appreciation Week- It is scheduled a week later than normal. This year we are paying for Wednesday's treat, Monday & Thursday would be by parent donation. We will switch the theme for Thursday with Tuesday to make sure it coordinates with the ELCO admin treat for all teachers. Gratitude papers will be sent home to write out notes to the teachers and staff at Fort Zeller. A directory of all staff members will be included on the back as well. Mrs. Houck's suggestion: QR code with a link to give staff/teachers shout outs and the PTO would post them on their FB page. Allison provided the suggestion of having each classroom teacher give specific shout-outs to other teachers without their

own classrooms. Mrs. Houck could possibly give teacher shout-outs in her weekly Smore to teachers as well. Hang a poster in the mailroom to encourage them to use their sticky notes to send positive notes to each other.

- Consider gifts for nurse and secretary- Last year we gave shirts as a gift. Suggestions were given by teachers and Mrs. Houck.

Gingerbread Shop: Committee Chair, Allison Ebersole**

- No updates

Memory Book: Committee Chair, Kelly Mohn

- Working on the yearbook. Requested a printable message from Mrs. Houck to be included in the book. Orders were extended until April 15th. We have over 100 orders as of now. Kelly will visit to come into school to take pictures of students who do not have a current picture on file and take pictures of each classroom to serve as a background for the yearbook pages. Kelly asked about retrieving pictures from the specials (art, music, etc.) classes. Mrs. Houck will send pics to Kelly.

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

- Date: Friday, May 19th (Wednesday, May 31st will be the official rain date)
- Shaved ice has been ordered
- Inflatables are scheduled for that day
- Richland Library attending!
- Order of rotation: shaved ice, library, bounce house, then obstacle course.
- Send out the classroom schedule at the end of April/beginning of May to send out parent volunteer information. 4 people per bounce house, 1-2 in other stations, 3 people for the shaved ice station & 1-2 floaters to fill in wherever necessary.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review chairperson for each committee
- Nurse was appreciative of the 50th anniversary shirt donations!

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2nd grade gift: Did we want to continue with the poster idea from last year? A parent shared their child still looks at it and it's a great idea. Mrs. Houck offered to coordinate dates/times to take pictures of each 2nd grade class. Kristen will reach out to the printing company to see how much time is needed prior to printing.
- Senior scholarships- 1 male and 1 female that had to attend Fort Zeller.
- Electing officers for next year will happen at the May meeting.

*****NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 - 6:30PM**