

Independence PTO Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2025

Attendance: Kaye Fischer, Courtney Rinkenberger, Emily Gerde, Lora Stebleton, Anna Wischer, William Wischer, Jessica Offerman, Shelby Anderson, Mariah Heise, Kylee Peterson, Miranda Olson, Nicole Plascnko, Courtney Perkins, Karen Johnson, and Amanda Johnson

Meeting was called to order by Lora Stebleton at 6:04pm.

Motion to approve February meeting minutes Courtney R.; Anna W. seconded.

Meeting Timeline

Introductions

Kaye Fischer - Principal

- First Teacher Leader of the Pack this last month!
 - Staff nominated
- Buster the Bulldog to come for more events? Spring Fling Bingo?
- Battle of the Books was a big success
 - 3rd Grade got to come in to watch (BOB starts with 4th grade)
 - Mrs. Rudolph's first year - she did fantastic
 - Water bottles, trophies, and events were very well received by the students and teachers
- Book Fair coming up in conjunction with conferences
- NDSA prep will be starting soon
 - The test is new this year - personalized to each kiddo to suit their needs/strengths

Lora Stebleton - President

- Remainder of the Year Event poster went out in teacher mailboxes
- Spring Fling Bingo - March 13th
 - 9 - \$25 Acapulco Giftcards
 - Big winner gets \$50 Acapulco Giftcard
 - Concession Candy for multiple winners
 - More daubers and booklets were purchased - 100 daubers/300 booklets (all event purchases/orders will go into excel spreadsheet to help for upcoming years)
 - Leis will be available for purchase as well as candy concessions
 - 7 National Honor Society volunteers
 - Purchase cheap table cloths to protect tables from dauber ink?
- Event attendance usually lessons as we go through the year. Spring Fling Bingo is new and also the latest event we've had, so it'll be interesting to see how attendance is
- Conference meals
 - Courtney will take lead this time as Lora will be gone
 - Teachers like Grab-n-Go
 - Which Wich Night One
 - Domino's Pizza Night Two
 - Delivery for 2 different times?
 - We do our best to accommodate all the dietary requests/restrictions

Courtney Rinkenberger - Vice President

- Yearbook prep is going well
 - Friday, Mar 14th is the last day for students to hand in their cover art
 - PTO will get together Sunday to pick winners
- Skate Night at the Lights was a huge success!
 - Great attendance between both schools

- Lunde's (Dine-to-Donate) was consistently busy
- Try to continue to pair this event with another school in the future
- Skate City is coming up April 22nd
 - Passes we received last time will be given at the next meeting for handing out
- Grocery Bags for Book Fair was really helpful - so any teachers or staff that want to donate some would be great

Anna Wischer - Treasurer

- Fundraising checks came in;
 - SkyZone - \$600
 - Lunde - \$177
- Budget looks good; we are on track
- Venmo account is in the process of getting set up; PayPal however is set up if we need
- Looking into bus fare cost as we have yet to see that for the upcoming 5th Grade Ski Trip
 - Kaye will check with accounting

Emily Gerde - Secretary

- Will create a flyer for the upcoming Dine-to-Donate with Slim Chickens April 8th

New Business

- Funds Request
 - 1st Graders upcoming Chahinkapa zoo fieldtrip - \$1320 so far (still need bus fare)
 - This covers admission and t-shirts
 - Bus fare will be at least \$420 if not more. \$42.50 per hour for in town
 - May 15th (9a-2p)
 - No vote needed; built into budget
 - 2nd Grader upcoming SkyZone fieldtrip - \$1376 so far (still need bus fare)
 - 86 students
 - \$16 per student admission
 - Date to be set; 8:30a-10:30a
 - No vote needed; built into budget
 - Going forward, SkyZone will NOT be an automatic field trip for any of the classes.
 - Students were already made aware of the trip, so we didn't want to pull it from them.
 - PTO will research and come up with some alternative ideas for the coming years
 - SkyZone feedback from teachers:
 - Great way for teachers and students to just "have fun" with each other, play together.
 - Very active, so helps burn energy
 - Some kids who have not and may not ever be able to experience SkyZone get that possibility
 - 3rd Graders taking a fieldtrip to West Acres Bowl - approximately \$1200
 - 110 students
 - \$8 per student
 - this trip will work in conjunction with their bowling section in gym class as well as math/counting
 - No motion at this point, however, PTO approved to get more information on cost and once submitted we can vote to approve. Shouldn't be an issue; budget is on track
- 3rd Grade Spotlight
 - Currently working on Biographies
 - kids will make a person they researched from cereal box, pop bottle, or poster board
 - Just finished up with Science and weather
 - Math unit on perimeter and area
 - 3rd Grade teachers talking about putting together their own Battle of the Books.
 - Kids very into reading and books right now; they loved seeing the Battle of the Books for the 4th Graders
- 2nd Grade Spotlight
 - Working on Biographies
 - Pulling apart standards in Math; working with coins
 - "Mystery Readers"
 - parents volunteer to come and read to students.
 - students won't know who is coming and when; exciting for the kiddos

- Highschool Students come to teach a class
- Field Trips paid for so far:
 - 4th Grade
 - 5th Grade
- 6pm Meeting time seemed to be received well; easier when you have little kiddos and it doesn't get too late

Popcorn Party Drawing:

- Brooks Offerman - Mrs. Urbach
- Karen Johnson class

Adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Emily Gerde; Kaye Fischer seconded

ECG