

PTO Meeting

December 12th, 2017

Attendees: Secretary - Dawn Marie Dean, Jamie LeGros, Karen Strandt-Conroy, Amber Bennett, Co-Vice President - Lisa Beeman, President - Kari Sanborn, Amanda Klein, DoRinda White, Nikki Lutzke, Peggy Harnack

Kari Sanborn called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

November's Minutes were read by Dawn Marie Dean. The motion to approve was made by Karen Strandt-Conroy and seconded by Amber Bennett.

The Treasurer's Report was handed out to attendees but not read. Motion to file was made by Kari Sanborn and seconded by Karen Strandt-Conroy.

Box Tops Update by Amanda Klein

- ❖ Very few Spirit Sticks have been earned for Box Tops. It was suggested that only certain colors be handed out now so that anyone earning a Spirit Stick in the future will receive a different color.
- ❖ \$92 has been earned for the school through the Box Tops app.
- ❖ As of the date of the meeting, the school had earned a total of \$1214 through the Box Tops program. The earnings may be slightly higher as Box Tops had not been picked up from local businesses that are collecting for us at the time of this meeting.
- ❖ An update will be added to Box Tops forms in the future so that students and parents can easily see how the earnings are being spent to help our school.
- ❖ Amanda has made a current listing by grade level for the ice cream party prize available on FaceBook. The reward will be for the entire grade level, not just one classroom!

Fall Fundraiser

- ❖ There was an unexpected profit of \$5639!

A general request for local fundraisers has been made by Karen in order to help keep our fundraisers successful. In the past, there has been a conflict with a local group running a fundraiser at the same time as the PTO. We did not have that conflict this year, which probably led to the success of our fall fundraiser.

Paint Night

- ❖ The profit from the event was unknown at the time of the meeting because there was still paint that could be returned for a refund.
- ❖ Suggestion for future Paint Nights: add a drying station with fans.
- ❖ Approximately 120 people came to paint night, a much larger number than expected before RSVPs were sent out. Attendees seemed to enjoy the event, no negative feedback had been received as of the time of the meeting.
- ❖ Canvases were ordered through Amazon and the paint was bought through a Michaels location.

- ❖ Because the supplies needed to be bought and ordered in advance, some last minute requests to attend the event did need to be declined. The flyers sent home were clear about the inability to accept late RSVPs or walk-ins and the deadline to RSVP was extended since many students did not receive their flyers on time, so declinations were kept to a bare minimum.

Family Game Night

- ❖ Will be hosted by Amber Bennett and Kari Sanborn on January 18th, 2018.

Attendees were asked to think of ways to get more people to volunteer to present at January's meeting. A suggestion was made that ClassDojo be used for this purpose by teachers. The Two-Hour pledge forms are not working as a means of finding parents to volunteer for events despite individual reach-outs this year.

Other Business

- ❖ A large package of popcorn had been bought by the school for an event and was unopened, the PTO bought this for \$24 to use at future events.
- ❖ Buddy benches have been installed. The foam required to make these benches handicap accessible cannot be installed until weather permits in the spring.
- ❖ Amber Bennett motioned to approve a **\$500 contribution** of PTO funds towards the **Buddy Bench** purchases. Kari Sanborn seconded the motion, there were no objections, the motion carried.
- ❖ A total of \$2,500 was given of PTO funds to teachers and special education teachers to spend on classroom expenses. This was largely a budgeted expense, but with a change to the number of teachers, the amount needed to be revised to accommodate the normal allowance of \$100 for teachers and \$50 for special education teachers.
- ❖ A specific explanation of the Makers Space was given by Nikki Lutzke, described as a best practice space for creative ideas. The space will be in the outdated computer lab by the mural. More information about the Makers Space will be included at the end of the minutes.
- ❖ Examples of how some grades are having fun with coding were discussed as part of the Makers Space discussion.
- ❖ Some teachers will be attending a conference titled "Future Ready". This seminar will cover how education is going to change to meet the needs of future professions and work environments. The fast pace of technological advancement is changing the way that jobs are performed to the point that current professions and the way that companies operate will be completely different by the time some of our students enter the workforce. Some of these changes to workplace environments are already happening and the students need to be prepared for it!
- ❖ There was discussion of a possible STEM assembly to allow students to preview the technology coming to PES.
- ❖ Now that we have much more information about the **Makers Space**, a previous request for PTO funds to go towards this space was revisited. A **contribution of \$500** was proposed by Kari Sanborn,

seconded by Amber Bennett. A vote was taken with no opposition, so the contribution was made. The issue will be revisited in the next couple of months as to whether or not there is funding for the PTO to make another contribution.

Kari Sanborn adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

What we need to know about the Makers Space

- ❖ Will be located in the 3rd/4th grade lab
- ❖ Due to open January 22nd, 2018 with a potential staff rollout date of 1/19
- ❖ It is a lab that will allow students to explore endless possibilities using realistic applications of knowledge (ie instead of simply knowing that a creature can camouflage itself, students can create an environment in which this camouflage would be used)
- ❖ Students and teachers can learn from each other
- ❖ Ability to have more frequent time for coding
- ❖ Students will not only use technology in this space, but will be able to build simple machines from items as simple as straws and toilet paper tubes
- ❖ Wish lists by grade level have been posted to ClassDojo, however, funding will be used towards bigger wish list items such as:
 - Adequate shelving
 - An extra large TV with Apple TV instead of a projector for easier sharing
 - 3D printer
 - Whiteboard wall
 - It was brought up that the TV may be able to be purchased at a lower price by waiting for the sales between Christmas and the Super Bowl and that Target may contribute towards wish lists annually.