

Pleasant Ridge PTA Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2016

In attendance: Jennifer Steben, Megan Brown, Melissa Wild, Amy Spooner, Meg Phillips, Lindsay Winkler, Kevin Musson, Peter Campbell, Lorrie Welzbacker, Amy Leighton, Janet Dillon, Daisie Scharmen, Jackie Sweet, Natalie Samp

- Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:04 am
- Welcome and updates (Jennifer Steben, President)
 - Thank you to Amy Spooner! Great job on Fall Fundraiser
 - Amy Good could not make it, but we will discuss communication more next time. Amy had a huge hand in the Fall Fundraiser – thank you to Amy G!
 - Natalie and Amanda did a great job with assembly
 - Thanks to Melissa for handling all of the money
 - Lots of positive feedback from community and other schools
 - Focus moving forward will be more on enrichment and passives
- Principal's update – playground edition (Kevin Musson)
 - Meeting on Thursday with Kim from Miracle playground
 - Looking at equipment for kindergarten age group
 - May be installed this year or may have to wait until spring
 - 1-2 pieces of equipment
 - Technology
 - Apple TVs are being installed
 - 15 iPads per room (non-Next Gen room)
 - 90 Chromebooks for general ed
 - Need 2 tech charging carts (~\$1000 each) to keep technology mobile
 - There is a sale going on right now
 - Additional needs: Makers carts – originally wanted a Makers Space in the old Spanish classroom, but needed the space for the extra kindergarten room
 - Carts would have materials similar to the Scrapbox store in Ann Arbor for 4 C's activities
 - Need money for carts as well as for items to fill it and organize it
 - Maker Cart Chair to organize and maintain the carts (estimated cost to keep stocked = \$3/week)
 - Jackie volunteered to chair and Meg volunteered to assist
 - Can we get the carts from somewhere like Ikea rather than paying \$1500 for an official Maker Cart?
 - Need one per hallway
 - Jackie and Meg to come back in 2 weeks with ideas
 - Spider web is staying in place and there is no intention to take it out currently – once something is pulled out and moved it is very difficult to have it recertified as safe. Swing bars have had more injuries than the spider web this year, per Kevin
 - The plan is to instead Increase what we are doing in the back area
 - creating a play area
 - fencing it in and possibly adding more equipment in the future
 - area no longer floods since we had the grading work and sod
 - \$10,000 approved for equipment already – we need to communicate what we bought and how much it cost.
 - Bond did not cover playground equipment
 - Sinking fund dollars are used for parent loop signage, sod, repairs
 - Keeping it away from the bond saves labor costs
 - Strategic grant vote for \$2000 for 2 Chromebook mobile charging carts – unanimously approved

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- o TV installed by early next week Monday or Tuesday
 - Kevin to coordinate with Melissa
- Staff update (Lorrie Welzbacker & Pete Campbell, 3rd Grade)
- Secretary update- pass minutes and membership update (Megan Brown)
 - o Motion to approve: Janet Dillon
 - o Second: Jackie Sweet
 - o Bench list non-members = 96
 - o Go through Amy Good to send e-mail to non-members on bench list
 - o Will do another membership push in January
- Fall Fundraiser wrap up and passives (Amy Spooner, VP Fundraising)
 - o Fall Fundraiser close
 - It was a fantastic team effort and a super fun day!
 - Still waiting on check from Get Movin' Crew
 - \$380 taken out for pledge forms & stickers
 - Not a single class that had 100% registration
 - Sticky ninjas for \$10 entry
 - Jackie suggested we watch wording/language on emails (i.e. using the word "vital")
 - It is more than 50% of our budget, so we consider it vital, but perhaps we could use a softer touch when reaching out to families
 - Should we instead give an idea of what the money goes toward?
 - Get Movin' Crew will send us all the stats regarding how many reached the \$75 goal
 - List of who registered and who didn't – Amy can easily get that data and can get it to teachers if needed
 - Pete noted that not everyone has good internet access at home/access to technology, so teachers could potentially help if they knew who needed to register
 - If they turned in envelope it counted as registration
 - Natalie noted that teachers seemed uncomfortable during the assembly
 - Food waste was a concern with the ice cream
 - Separating the kids based on their donation was another issue
 - Can we do something where everyone can participate rather than creating that separation?
 - Movie and popcorn day?
 - Opportunity to teach coping with differences
 - Is it best to have the challenge and the assembly all on one day? This was a suggestion from the teachers last year
 - Kevin noted that fundraising insides schools is an unfortunate need; moving forward, we need to consider what worked and what did not
 - It was a long day for all
 - Money greatly benefits the teachers and students
 - We want to make everyone feel comfortable with process
 - Let's think about what we can do differently, but also focus on the positives
 - Celebration assembly rather than rewards?
 - Tickets for raffle based on the amount raised (Meg)
 - Jennifer will find out more about what each school did and get feedback, share some ideas
 - Should the reward be non-food related?

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- Issue of respect to authority figures (ice cream sundae, pie in the face) – Kevin said he willing to do whatever and he doesn't feel that it changes the attitude of the kids the next day. High 5 values are still in place.
- There was some misunderstanding about ninja warrior celebration participation based on donation (Lorrie)
- How to change things for next year? (Amy Spooner)
 - we need the money to do what we're doing
 - how do we do what we do in a comfortable way for everyone
 - some dissatisfaction with e-mails and grade rep communications that went out
 - Per Kevin - building communications need to go through him.
 - Amy will communicate with Kevin and Kevin will send it out to the teachers
 - Adding the voice of the teachers to hear what we can do to make some changes – they hear things that we don't hear
 - Lorrie or Pete compose e-mail to the teachers for Fall Fundraiser feedback and Kevin will circulate to staff
- Chairs for Fall Fundraiser should be set by April, deposit goes out in May – minimally a staff of 4 (2 fundraising and 2 assembly)
- Lorrie added that the teachers really appreciate all the hard work that goes into the fundraiser
- o Passives
 - Pizza Czar – Amy Hammons to touch base with Michelle from Dominos
 - Buy one get one free cards to sell for \$10 – Dominoes will donate them to us this year – we can sell them at 100% profit
 - Original dough nights-we no longer have two places participating
 - Do we go back to dough night? Dough month?
 - Intake was pretty small last year ~\$800
 - Other businesses?
 - Box Tops
 - Paulina and Crystal – numbers just under \$700 for 1st collection
 - Down from last year
 - Need to get out in front of the Kindergarten parents before school year – privacy concerns
 - A lot of “noise” at the beginning of the year – do Box Tops get lost in the shuffle?
 - Flyer in first day folders + reminders before collection date
 - Are there fewer box tops out there on products?
 - Pinterest handouts where kids can glue box tops on? - concern is that they will stop collected at 25 or 50 of whatever the sheet holds
 - Should we do that type of collection with just kindergartens?
 - Scrip launched this week with zero return
 - info went home in folders this week – really quick turnaround for first collection
 - People will likely do it online and orders are due every other week.
 - Amy G and Amy S will work on social media reminder
 - Busch's
 - Yankee Candle orders are due tomorrow (\$385 in sales as of last night)
 - Amazon Smile
- Book Fair (Amy Leighton, Chair)

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- o Need book fair volunteers for pancake night
- o Money for book fair by 12/14 (Melissa will get \$300 in change and \$200 for pancakes)
- o There are extra cash boxes in closet so money is secure
- o Is there room in the office safe to store money?
- o There are always a few kids who don't get books
- o We have scholastic dollars – it was proposed that once per year we donate \$50 in Scholastic bucks for teachers to use at their discretion for these kids
- o We are also donating balance of t-shirts for those who can't afford it (~20 shirts)
- o Follow up with Amber Sartori so it could come from her and not from teachers or PTA
- o Jennifer will follow up with Kevin
- o There was a discussion around whether or not to take the 3000 projected revenue from Scholastic bucks off the budget since it goes to incentives for fundraiser, teachers, science books for science fair, etc.
- o Plan is to see where we are with Scholastic bucks for December
- o Classrooms come to holiday book fair on 12/15 and 12/16 - if they order online it may not be back in time for the holidays – we will state this on the flyer
- Treasurer Update – follow up on mini grants from last time, look at budget post Fall Fundraiser (Melissa Speicher)
 - o One more mini grant Emily Oulette for Ann Arbor Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo at Art Night (\$100)
 - Should we add to budget for curriculum nights (had \$200 budget)?
 - Meg made motion to add \$100 to curriculum night budget for Instrument Petting Zoo to make it permanent
 - Daisy seconds
 - Meg will e-mail Emily
 - o Clark mini grant for \$550 for two standing desks
 - it was in the wrong folder (should we get rid of box with hanging folders in office?)
 - foundation approving grants for standing desks -Jennifer will check in with foundation first
 - o \$4200 for traditional fundraiser expenses
- VP Enrichment update & Communication discussion (Meg Phillips)
 - o Pancake supper flier - \$5; all you can eat age 2 and up
 - o Book with king pancake – have not done yet – need to make sure we are good with the date
 - o Already tied to book fair for 12/14
 - o Make it a movie night if King Pancake is unavailable
 - o Paying staff volunteers with scholastic bucks (\$50)
 - o Lorrie coordinates staff
 - o Will need volunteers
 - o Meg to follow up with Amy G and King Pancake
 - o If not, Jennifer will ask other principals if they use a different vendor, then we got to movie
 - o Should we scrap king pancake if we aren't making money on it? Just do a Christmas movie with book fair?
 - o Made ~\$800 last year
 - o District is against doing something “Christmas”
 - o Will have to run movie by Kevin if it's a holiday movie
 - o Parent teacher conferences – Sign Up Genius is up and filling nicely
 - o Add more people for clean-up – at least 2
 - o Parade (Natalie)
 - Jill and Natalie chaired last year and felt that it was too chaotic to walk in the parade

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- We will plan to tailgate here at PR or on parade route
- Per Janet, we cannot rope off an area, but we can put down blankets or ask a business if we can use their area (Bank of Ann Arbor was a suggestion)
- Christmas parade starts at the firehouse
- Jennifer and Janet will reach out to contacts at Bank of Ann Arbor
- Need volunteers for setup and clean up & we need a Sting
- Last year Bush's donated donuts and water, but had to buy a lot more
- This year we will plan for donuts and hot chocolate
- Oriental trading – or glow necklaces?
- Natalie's mom made 100 hats last year and they were gone
- Donations for hot chocolate/donut tailgate
- \$100 budget
- Lindsay will donate decoration
- Flyer should go out soon – parade is December 3rd
- Janet will let Meg, Natalie, and Jennifer know about Bank of Ann Arbor
- o January
 - Dean Garbarz– Science Fair 1/25 in evening
 - 2 time slots
 - Pre-order pizza option?
 - Dean may need extra Support because Ms. Spears isn't here anymore – one other helper
 - Supplemental stations with questions
 - Movie night 1/20 – Jackie Bester to chair
 - Math night 2/22 – Amy G to chair- may need some assistance
 - Art night 2/9 – Natalie to chair
 - Prizes? Scholastic bucks drawing?
 - Books – Book Bingo
 - March – Spring Event – table discussion until next meeting
 - Table communication discussion until next meeting– briefly, Meg had been sending staff e-mails to Pete and Lorrie to send out – Kevin prefers to send them out.
 - We need a very clear chain of communications – Amy S, Jennifer, Meg, and Kevin to meet to discuss this further
- VP Volunteers update (Lindsay Winkler)
- PTA Closet (Jennifer Steben)
- Auction and spring event planning (Jennifer Steben)
- Grade Rep updates (Amy Wallen, Cris Supina, Jill Stacy, Jackie Sweet)
- Open/other team business & close (Jennifer Steben)
- Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am
- Next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 8th, 9 am in the Teacher's Lounge