

PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes - June 13, 2017

In attendance: Sara Schneidewind, Jen McNamara, Jamar Humphrey, Mary Cooper, Brian Weisman, Marguerite Dillard, Ying Liu, Jia Wang, Beth Grzelak-Lee, Karin Sletten-Farjo, Carly Ly, Linda Hagan, Kathy Scarnecchia, Alfhildur Kristjansdottir, Liz Batteh, Sarah Wentzloff, Talisha Sutton, Suzanne Muenz, Larissa Sano

1. Called to order @ 6:36 pm
2. Minutes - Reviewed previous meeting's minutes
  - a. Motion to approve minutes: Liz Batteh
  - b. Seconded: Karin Sletten-Farjo
  - c. Vote: all "ayes"
3. Principal Report - Mrs. Cooper
  - a. Mrs. Cooper has been meeting with teachers to review teaching activities for the year; all teachers are evaluated on growth of children in each classroom, so it is a good time to reflect on both the academic growth of the children as well as the social and emotional growth of these children
  - b. And again, appreciation for all of the parent support of teachers and staff
  - c. All of this came together for the Ice Cream Social, which was a great example of the goodness of the King Community
4. Teacher Report - Mrs. Hagan
  - a. Teachers are grateful for all of the support that parents provide for King teachers and students
5. Treasurer Report - Brian Weisman
  - a. Still have a few items to reconcile, so final numbers won't be in until July
  - b. Budgeted a deficit (loss) of c. 15K because we have been trying to spend down some of our savings to allow us to fully support needs at King school
  - c. Most years, we end up spending c. 10-15K less than what we originally budget
  - d. The trend this year has been to spend more of the funds that are allotted for programs and students
  - e. Our goal in terms of budgeting is to maintain a nest egg in our bank account in case we have a year (or years) when we have trouble with our revenue (so this is a balance between conservatively managing our funds, but also making sure we optimize the funds we receive to support needs at King)
  - f. For this year, we are projecting a c. 8K deficit
  - g. We also discussed additional ways to support staff at King, such as Jackie and Joe to recognize the fact that they are an integral part of the King community
  - h. Next year, we will have a few more new demands, because we will have up to four (possibly five) new classrooms, such as young fives.
  - i. The PTO has traditionally provided additional support for new classrooms
6. Committee Reports
  - a. AAPAC (Parent Advisory Council)- Rochelle Taylor Franklin
  - b. Academic Games-Vivian Lin
  - c. Bagel Friday-Sara Schneidewind, Sara Zoicher

- d. Bingo Night - Jen McNamara
- e. Book Fairs-Tomomi Kumagai, Leslie Frey, Lisa Mitchell, Dana Habers
  - i. Dates: Fall week of Dec 4th 2017; Spring week of Mar 12th 2018;
  - ii. Note that STEAM holds a one-day book fair, buy one, get one free, with a 10% return to the school. This allows the students to get books before summer, even though the school doesn't get as much revenue. We have considered this before at King, but were concerned about recruiting enough volunteers at the end of the year and the end of the year tends to be very hectic. Could we combine this with the ice cream social? Although this might (would) detract from the fun and social aspect of the event (plus we had a hard time recruiting enough volunteers for just the ice cream social)
- f. Box Tops-Sara Robins
- g. By Laws Interpretation-Jamie Haberichter
- h. Communications/Enotes-Kim Burton-Weisman
- i. Community Action- Larissa Sano
- j. Disability Awareness Coordinator-Pam McGuinty
- k. Family 5K- Talisha Sutton
- l. First Day Packets- Sarah Wentzloff, Helen Kaplan
- m. Grade Level Rep-K- Carly Ly
- n. Grade Level Rep-1<sup>st</sup>- Jen McNamara
- o. Grade Level Rep-2<sup>nd</sup>-Shikha Marwah
- p. Grade Level Rep-3<sup>rd</sup>- Shanti Eswaran
- q. Grade Level Rep-4<sup>th</sup>-Sharon Qi
- r. Grade Level Rep-5<sup>th</sup>- Anita Shelgikar
- s. Grocery Cards
- t. Harvest Moon- Carrie Bora, Liz Batteh
- u. Ice Cream Social- Bing Yang, Monica Jones
  - i. We had a great night for ICS. Approximately 50 volunteers signed up to help. During the event, even more people helped out. Thank you all! More than 1000 people came to the event and really had fun. The sales for ice cream was \$3470. The ticket lines were moving faster comparing with last year's event. This was partially because we moved the schedule for ticket sale 15 minutes earlier. The games were great and got a lots complements. Kids enjoyed all the games.
  - ii. Some thoughts maybe for next year: volunteers for some games did not get volunteer signed up. Maybe we can try to send signup genius to high schools (Huron high) for high schoolers to sign up.
  - iii. Weather is still a big concern. A backup plan is helping to release some stress. AA school made rules more strict for safety such as the rule for inflatables.
  - iv. Variety of games was really fun; and the parents said this was great, and thought it was one of the best yet!
- v. International Night- Marguerite Dillard
  - i. King International Night 2018 Many of you help out at King International Night : this amazing event for the children is possible Thanks to You. Looking ahead, King International Night 2018 is

looking for engaged parents like you to commit ~12 weeks x 1 hour/week and the evening of the show (November – February). It would be wonderful to have as many cultures represented as possible: ... Brazil, Ballet, China, Drums, France, Germany, India, Indigenous people of the Americas, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Karate, King Care Dance Club, Kung Fu, Martial Arts, MGo Blue Fiddlers, MoTown Medley, Portugal, Romanian, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Native American, USA, Yoga, ...

Thank you for your support, If you are interested, you can email [kinginternationalnight@gmail.com](mailto:kinginternationalnight@gmail.com)

- ii. Looking to hold it on a Sat in February 2018; looking at Pioneer High School (we have held it previously at Huron, but had some problems holding it there, in terms of securing a date and waffling on availability).
- w. Landscaping- Marguerite Dillard
- x. Learning Garden-Sara Zocher, Becky Locke, Neha Shah
- y. Math Club- Shikha Marwa Fred Korley
- z. Enotes and Outdoor Sign-Kim Burton-Weisman
- aa. PTO Thrift Shop Liaison-Sara Schneidewind
- bb. PTO Council Rep- Beth Grzelak-Lee
- cc. Science Olympiad- Karin Sletten-Farjo, Yong Miao
  - i. We had a successful competition on June 3. Each grade won medals and all kids had fun.
  - ii. Marguerite Dillard will be transitioning in to take Karin's place in a year.
  - iii. Every child who practiced this past year got to participate!; this year we were able to bring 135 children to the event;
  - iv. Focus has been on participating and having fun; we tend to wait to start event training because it can be hard to recruit parents/coaches and we often don't know what the events will be
  - v. We noted that some schools do start learning/training earlier than King
  - vi. Also, some schools do assign teams at the start of their training period, so that coaches and students know which events they will be committed to (might help with parent planning as well) - at King, we have waited to do this, often because kids sometimes aren't as interested in some of the events they have selected
  - vii. We discussed whether there should be more emphasis on winning in the different events, some parents thought that we should better prepare children to do well in their events;
  - viii. We also discussed ways to manage or address situations where students might not be as interested in topics in terms of how to place them in events - there is a way for coaches to identify students who are more committed to a given event
  - ix. Karin has also be talking with Silent Auction group (Suzanne) about Science Night
- dd. Silent Auction- Carrie Bora, Gayle Green
  - i. Totals for Cash for a Cause portion of auction:
    - 1- Playground \$1328 \* 1st purchase of a

friendship bench was made (by Girls on the Run). GaGa pit plans are in the works.

2- Media Center/ Music/ Literacy           \$529  
      (\$263)     - for music (xylophone)  
      (\$263)     for library ( not enough for encyclopedias - roll  
over to next year?)

3- King Learning Garden                   \$771  
      (including 5 benches with family donations of \$100)

4- Technology                               \$349

5-Motor/Sensory options in class       \$213

6- ELL                                       \$392

- ii. For next year, perhaps we can identify something specific to help parents know what the needs are and what the funds will go towards
- iii. \*\*\*\*Date set for next year....Friday, April 13! 2018

ee. SIT Rep- Tim Pinto

ff. Space Camp - Neha Shah

gg. Spirit Wear-Ben Ewy

hh. Store Certificates

ii. Student Directory-Sarah Wentzloff

jj. Teacher Appreciation - Beth Grzelak-Lee, Marguerite Dillard

kk. Traffic & Safety - Chien -An Yuan

- i. We have convened as a group and reached out to AAPS BOE. Mr. Gaynor will be coming to King on Friday to discuss our concerns and to see the pedestrian/traffic situation. We hope these efforts will lead to more responsibility in addressing issues.
- ii. We are looking for any or all ideas to help with these issues
- iii. We are seeing left hand turns
- iv. On Waldenwood, is there a way to help with traffic flow (right now safeties are there, but it can make it more confusing about what drivers should do) - we discussed the fact that traffic safeties need to be better trained and should not be directing traffic;
- v. We also noted that sometimes the safeties are not attentive during their shifts - this could be partially addressed by having someone train the incoming safeties
- vi. We are going to use a meeting with Mr. Gaynor to connect with BOE group including Mr. Lazarus about how to improve safety
- vii. We also discussed the need to have clarification about how cars should proceed as traffic builds up along Waldenwood, because drivers are adopting habits that are likely not legal, but are still being adopted

- viii. Could we do a traffic safety sheet to have parents sign, to acknowledge that they have read the rules for King elementary - this could help make parents pay attention to the rules
- ix. We also discussed "training the students" about the rules
- x. Could we do more outreach at curriculum night? And making more of an effort at beginning of the school year?
- xi. What about more regimented process for getting cars into the traffic loop, such as a group of 15 cars coming in for drop off; then next group of cars come in (at one school, this was mandatory for classrooms to have volunteers by classroom spending time to help direct traffic)
- xii. Can we keep a running log of the issues that have been raised?

II. Turkey Trot-Tim Pinto, Jamie Haberichter

7. Old Business

8. New Business

a. Two New Committees for 2017-2018, and "sunsetting" other committee

"King Parents Connect" proposed and organized by Talisha Sutton and Moushumi Kahn

Description: Where King parents can get together informally to get to know each other, learn about and discuss topics of interest, hear from experts, and just share their experiences. This could include informal town hall meetings that would be more of an avenue to discuss issues and concerns that are more specific. Could also piggyback on PTOC topics, and have a chance to create more dialogue. For these gatherings, there might be an opportunity to also establish "norms" for the group conversations to promote open and constructive dialogues. The goal would be to keep a positive framework for discussion and this could also be done by having a narrow topic.

Motion to approve King Parents Connect committee: Karin Sletten-Farjo

Second by: Liz Batteh

Vote: all "ayes" approved

Board of Education Liaison - chair: Marguerite Dillard, also interested - Talisha Sutton

In light of the suggestion at the last meeting that the PTO should better provide our community with pertinent Board of Education information Marguerite volunteered to take on this role. This attendance can be in the form of in-person attendance at the meeting or a review of the BOE meeting minutes or remote attendance

Motion to approve BOE Education Liaison committee: Karin Sletten-Farjo

Second by: Beth Grzelak-Lee

Vote: all "ayes", approved

- We also discussed "sunsetting" the 5K for the next year. We currently don't have a chair for the event; so we thought that maybe it doesn't have the current level of interest from the King community. If an event doesn't have a chair, then it is not possible to hold the event.

b. Vote on 2017-2018 Board and Committee

Motion to approve 2017-2018 Board and Committee: Karin Sletten-Farjo

Second by: Suzanne Muenz

Vote: All "ayes" approved

- c. Modular units - we had parents who raised additional issues about the modular units: specifically about the materials that might be used in the manufacturing of these units such as VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and formaldehyde (which is a known human carcinogen); so expressed concerns about reports that have reported high levels of VOCs, etc., in these units; parents want to know what the material is in these modular units to help ensure student safety; Mrs. Cooper has noted that the School Board is aware of these issues and will work to make sure that companies will meet the state-specific standards; we also noted that the PTO acknowledges the concern of these parents related to the environmental health safety conditions for these students.
9. Meeting Adjournment @ 8:10 pm
    - a. Motion to adjourn: Jen McNamara
    - b. Seconded: Linda Hagan