

Approved at 012/2017 meeting

PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes - November 13, 2017

In attendance: Sara Schneidewind, Kate Delaney, Alfhildur Kristjansdottir, Karin Sletten-Farjo, Jennifer McNamara, Marguerite Dillard, Mr. Humphrey, Brian Weisman, Beth Grzelak, Linda Hagan, Jason Allgood, Tim Pinto

1. Called to order @ 6:40 by Sara
2. Minutes - Reviewed previous meeting's minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Brian Weisman
 - b. Seconded: Karin Sletten-Farjo
 - c. Vote: All Aye
3. Principal Report - Mrs. Cooper
 - a. Keeping Responsive Classroom at the forefront. Had first assembly focused on "empathy" and the teachers are really modeling this for the children. Student Council is also really providing this modeling.
4. Teacher Report - Mrs. Hagan
 - a. Linda Hagan said thank you for feeding all of the teachers during Parent/Teacher conferences last week - the food lasted all the way through Wednesday! Always feeling so appreciative to the PTO for what they do for the teachers on these nights. Sara notes that giving shout-outs to the PTO by teachers in notes home really helps raise awareness of what the PTO covers - field trips, etc.
5. Treasurer Report - Brian Weisman
 - a. Latest report: so far for the year, donations are just under \$10k...hoping to get to \$14k, especially with a few more kids/families this year. So far, fewer than 25% of families have donated. We would love to get to 50%. We think last year was 40-50% by all was said and done. Beth G asked about reaching out in different languages, and a cultural/language difference relating to donations to schools. Sara suggested that we could reach out to SIP regarding their language reps. Karin is on SIP, and Patti Jerosz could coordinate this with language reps. How many families signed up for the language reps? Marguerite is happy to add a note to the email that goes out to International Night families. Another note is going to go home in early December requesting more donations/dues. Beth G suggested the visual with a thermometer...both in the eNOTES and one in the school. Sara found a large wipeable thermometer that we can use for the goal setting...put it up at the drive thru. The drive thru is a captive audience in a way...
 - b. Have spent \$5000 for this year's field trips....so that money is already moving out the door.
 - c. As an FYI, we are collecting money for Space Camp, but we are a flow thru to the Space Camp accounting group. At the end of the year we just make sure that

it adds up so that it all balances out. We have been getting donations from parents across the school. Got one for \$500!

- d. Music - cello racks were built by a parent. This saved a great deal - the estimated cost to purchase them was \$2500. So that was just under \$400 in materials. Worked out really well.
- e. This left extra for the King Learning Garden. Cash for a Cause can be motivating - some people really like to see how their monies are being applied.
- f. -\$2200 for the year in expenditures versus income. But this is common for this point in the year.

6. Committee Reports

- a. AAPAC (Parent Advisory Council) - Liz Batteh: There were two presentations for the Nov 6 AAPAC meeting: The first was given by Student Access and Opportunities Team, Instruction. This group's presentation focused on student attendance and the impact on scholastic performance. They outlined the process by which a student in the chronic absentee group (>10% of the school year or 18 days) is identified and how they can help them. The presentation also went on the detail how to get a 504 and the differences between a 504 and an IEP (accommodations vs. services). If a parent is concerned with their child's struggle in school, they can call for a meeting with the achievement team to discuss what can be done without formal evaluation (tier 1/tier 2). If this isn't working or it is clear more accommodations may be needed, the parent needs to *formally* request and eval (Big take away: noting concerns is not sufficient; a formal written request is needed). Note that 504 can cover things such as anxiety, depression, other health issues, bullying, etc. If you have any concerns about your child's struggle, contact your school achievement team to discuss options. The second presentation was by the Behavior Team, SISS (the IEP folks). Their presentation mostly outlined what they did over the past summer to increase teacher support, TA training and social worker training support with respect to ASD students. They are basing a lot of the classroom plans on START (state wide autism resources and training) which was developed out of GVSU and is the "guru" of autism education. The Regional Collaborative Network (RCN) is also related and has recently opened their monthly meeting to the public (as opposed to just educators). These groups and meetings help classroom (both self-contained and general ed) teachers develop plans to help ASD kids, but most behavior plans also help neurotypical kids too (responsive classroom is an example). Since they educate the educators, this is the group to go to if your current building team needs additional ideas/support.
- b. Academic Games - Vivian Lin: No report.
- c. Bagel Friday- Cori Peng and Jas: No report (next Bagel Friday is 11/17/17)
- d. Bingo Night - Jen McNamara: No report
- e. Book Fairs - Leslie Frey, Lisa Mitchell, Dana Habers, Gayle Green: Book Fair dates are Dec 4-8. We are pushing the online fair this year through Scholastic's website. They have free shipping to the school. Under Scholastic's direction, we are eliminating backorders this book fair. Instead, we will have 1-2 computer

terminals set up for parents to order and pay for books through Scholastic's website. This should greatly reduce the amount of volunteer time needed during and post-fair dealing with backorders. We appreciate everyone's patience and support for this new way of doing the book fair. Look for Sign-up Genius lists and fliers going out in the coming weeks.

- A question came up if the back-order is being done during the school day, will the book be sent to the child's home address or to the school?
- f. Box Tops - Sara Robins: No Report
 - g. By Laws Interpretation - Jamie Haberichter: No Report
 - h. Classroom Reps - XX: Still looking for Several 3rd and 5th grade reps. PTO will begin asking people outright based on folks that we already know.
 - i. Communications/Enotes - Kim Burton-Weisman: No Report
 - j. Community Action - Larissa Sano: No Report
 - k. Disability Awareness Coordinator - Katie Baidel: The Disability Awareness Workshop is this week! Thursday, Nov 16. A few more volunteers are still needed to make the day run smoothly. The sign up genius can be found at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4eaca82eaa8-disability>. On Wednesday, Nov 15 at 9:45am in the morning, I will be going to the AA Center for Independent Living to pick up the materials and bring them to King. If anyone with a large car/van is able to join me, I would appreciate the help for loading/unloading and to avoid making 2 trips. Should only take 1 hour total if we have 2 cars.
 - l. First Day Packets - Sarah Wentzloff, Helen Kaplan: No report.
 - m. Grocery Cards: No report.
 - n. Harvest Moon- Renee Tall: No report.
 - o. Ice Cream Social- Bing Yang, Monica Jones:
 - p. International Night - Marguerite Dillard: - Report on # of children signed-up; We currently have 200 children registered for 18 performances. Have 22 performance in total - which is more than last year (21). We have same number of parent volunteers this year. Saturday, February 24th at 6pm. Practices begin November 27 - week after Thanksgiving break.
 - q. King Parents Connect - Talisha Sutton, Mou Kahn: No report
 - r. Landscaping - Marguerite Dillard: - Suggestion for an announcement in enotes for Thursday noon-1pm + Friday noon-1pm volunteers; Progress is being made. Thanks you to Marguerite Dillard for leading and actualizing this. Beth G asked why this space couldn't be better used. Mrs. Hagan noted that these might be better used now that they are cleaned up. Marguerite noted surprise over why hadn't used those spaces for King Learning Garden.
 - There is a side window on the door facing the playground that needs to be replaced. It is currently held together with Duct Tape. Mr. Humphrey noted that several work orders have been put in to encourage the repair. Balas Physical Properties, or maybe the

School Board. Or someone in the district...parents should voice their concern.

- Sara S suggested idea of doing Cash for Cause to raise monies for benches or other items to make it more usable. Linda Hagan noted that they used to use it. Could use for Lunch Bunch if had picnic tables. Second grade used it for their science lesson work. For a while it was so overgrown that students could not maintain it, but now it is possible that they can. Having exterior windows for classrooms is a requirement for safety, so the space could not be closed in, but could be used in other ways.
 - Marguerite also suggested a parent group to come and meet in that space, clean up that space. Maybe Tuesdays and Thursdays. A lot of potential but does require a lot of attention.
- s. Learning Garden-Sara Zoicher, Becky Locke, Angela Bullman, Sherry Grant: No report
- t. Math Club- Shikha Marwa Fred Korley: No report.
- u. PTO Thrift Shop Liaison - Anita Shelgikar: No report.
- v. PTO Council Rep - Beth Grzelak-Lee: Next district-level PTOC meeting is Monday, November 20th, from 7:00pm-8:30pm at the Balas Bldg on State Street. The topic will be insurance for school-level PTOs. All are welcome!
- w. Science Olympiad - Karin Sletten-Farjo, Yong Miao: The competition date is set for May 12, 2018. We have had great responses from parents and prior coaches and only need 2 more event coaches: Estimania (2/3) and To Infinity (4/5). But - we are in desperate need of a person to volunteer at the WESO level and be an Event Supervisor. This role takes on setting the rules for the events - want a basic outline of the event (which already exist) by Dec 15, and rules have to be set by Jan 31. Events Sup decides ALL the rules for that one event (see list below). One event will be assigned. If we do not provide someone for this position, the entire King team (135 kids) will not be able to participate. I need the volunteer by November 20 - at some point after this WESO will decide which event (preferences are considered). PLEASE consider volunteering for this. Open positions include: Aerodynamics, Back to Nature (Michigan Insects), Barge Building, Circuit Wizardry, Estimania, Feathered Friends, In Bloom, Mystery Architecture, On Target, Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah. We have reserved the Hands on Museum for Science Night (in conjunction with the Auction). We will be running from 5:30-7:30 with 15 topics. We will try to run some hands on demos of Science Olympiad events as well. Commitment will be the meeting on Jan 31 and then all day on May 12. We can make an announcement at Bagel Friday. The reality is that if a parent does not Volunteer, King cannot participate in Science Olympiad. Karin has already reached out to Science Olympiad list. Will reach out again.
- Science Olympiad will be featured again at Silent Auction, with presentation by Hand's On Museum.

- x. Silent Auction - Carrie Bora, Gayle Green: We had our planning kick off meeting last week. Discussed fundraising in general and options for King. This year SA will run similar to how it has in the past, but we will be having a larger online component for certificates and etc. Especially on things that don't need to be present for (certificates, etc) so that we don't have to put them out on tables. We still are looking for more volunteers to help with outreach and planning! The date is Friday, April 13, 2018.
- y. SIT Rep - Tim Pinto: No Report
- z. Space Camp - Sarah Wentzloff: No Report
- aa. Spirit Wear - Ben Ewy: No report.
- bb. Student Directory-Sarah Wentzloff: No report
- cc. Teacher Appreciation - Beth Grzelak-Lee: Thank you to the committee members and folks who donated wonderful, healthy, and very tasty-looking food for our teachers during last Monday's conferences. The teachers were very appreciative. Next event will be week prior to the Winter Break. This is new from last year. So going to check in with Mrs. Cooper (or Linda Hagan and other teachers) about what has been done/can be done to support teachers. Big event is in May, which has been a breakfast and then little things throughout the week.
- dd. Traffic & Safety - No report.
- ee. Theatrical Play - Ying Liu
- ff. Turkey Trot-Tim Pinto, Jamie Haberichter: Turkey Trot will be this Friday! A sign-up went out on Enotes, along with the schedule of when each class will participate. We still need additional volunteers to help from 10:15 am - 11:30 and 1:10 pm - 2:30. Donuts will be delivered. Waiting to hear from Busch's regarding donating apple cider. Easiest volunteering...
- gg. Board of education liaison - Marguerite Dillard. Recent notes include the following information:

10/18 School Board Meeting

- awards : Clague Middle School named [2017 School to Watch](#) + [Allen Elementary is 2017 National Blue Ribbon School](#).
- planning committee : 3rd Grade Reading Initiative = Provide More Support;
- finance committee : Budget Review + Roof Replacement Assessment + Sinking Fund Millage Analysis Projection of Estimated Revenue + Winter Salt Readiness Budget vote in Favor.

10/25 School Board Meeting

- SAT scores from performance committee: we emphasize working all together with the community in the solution to bring all children to their best AND scores are among MI best;
- board approves the legislative committee's resolution to *modify* [proposed senate bill 574](#) + resolution to *oppose* [proposed senate bill 584](#) and [proposed senate bill 586](#).

11/08 School Board Meeting

- celebration Dr Swift MI Superintendent of the year;
- thank You for the 74% approval rate on special education millage vote;
- AAPS strategic plan: community conversation fall/winter 17-18 + strategic plan draft spring 18

Next Board meeting is this coming Wednesday, Nov 15, at Forsythe Middle School. Meetings can be viewed online and also via the blog on MLive. Could these links be added to the PTO eNotes? To help connect parents to these details and this information.

Beth G and Marguerite both brought up the issue that while AAPS is doing well, overall the state is faring very poorly in terms of overall student achievement. How could we harness the power/knowledge/resources within our district to lobby at the state level.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

Marguerite - Requests an update on King Expansion Planning, bring the echo that last year we had a good conversation going on and to keep talking about it and keep parents in the loop.

Mr. Humphrey noted that all the schools with modular buildings are in a study period over the next few years to determine whether or not growth is sustaining and a school renovation/growth is needed to meet student needs. Using enrollment data from across several years, determinations will be made as to whether permanent expansions are needed.

More of an announcement rather than new business, but PTO is cleaning out the supply closet. Things will be set out and teachers invited to shop off that table. There are so many materials that we would like to see used or disposed of so that we can have better use of this space. There are also a lot of PLASTIC SPOONS (a bazillion and two). Ice Cream social, Chili Night...don't ask for spoons from parents for donations. Also check in with PTO re supplies and see if we can reuse items rather than purchasing new. There are some chess mats that we could offer to classrooms, or for indoor recess.

9. Meeting Adjournment @ 7:38

a. Motion to adjourn: Jennifer

b. Seconded: Beth