

Minutes Approved: 10/10/23

September 19, 2023

PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Meeting: in person in the King library/media center

In attendance: Tiffany Walthers, Koren Clinkscale, Katie Dobbie, Betzy McCarty, Ann Lin, Keichea Shauntee-Wilson, Trisha Shah, Kristen Berger, Erin Hill, Alison Emmitt, Mandy Hutton, Yun Lee, Emily Stoneman, Lisa Whitehead, Samantha Scherba, Rachele Stucker, Brad Johnson, Buffy Beattie, Julie Zhou, Diana Shah, Jamie Gurmin, Caroline Hughes, Hansini Mundigals, Stella Wisidagamage, Ahusha Geethangani, Bhuvana Mathew, Jay Mitchell, Xiqian Hu, Liz Arnkoff, Arunrat Wanitrammanee, Harini Sundararaghana, Vidya Ramanathan, Tim Pinto

1. Called to order: 6:35 pm
2. Minutes - Review previous meeting's minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Erin Hill
 - b. Seconded: Mandy Hutton
 - c. Vote: Approved
3. Board Introductions: Board Members introduced themselves
4. Board Mission: We, as a board, are a group of parents who have collective experiences and time at King. Our mission as officers of the PTO is to provide an equitable environment while supporting the school when we are called upon to do so. We aim to build community by providing social events in order to foster relationships between parents and the school.
5. Principal Report - Koren Clinkscale and Keichea Shauntee-Wilson introduced themselves. Mrs. Clinkscale stated that we are off to a great start this school year. However, we are bursting at the seams. Library space is now split between PLTW and the library. We recently had grade level assemblies. We felt it really important during the assemblies to share routine and procedures for all grade levels. We had a wonderful turn out for Curriculum Night. We had a lot of parent participation. Almost 85% parent participation in every classroom. Also, breakfast and lunch are free this year. Families just need to fill out the free and reduced lunch form. The state just needs the form filled out by every family so they know how many families are receiving free meals. If you are the parent of a child in 4th or 5th grade this year, you should have received the MSTEP results from last year. MSTEP is a state assessment and the data is used to inform the state on how King students are doing. NWEA, however, is for the school to use to

help guide instruction in the classroom for each student. Also, we survived our first fire drill of the year. We did really well getting out of the building in a timely manner. This Friday we have our first severe weather drill. State requires a certain number of drills every year. The teachers have conversations with the kids about what's going on and let them know that they are safe and these are just the protocols we use to keep them safe. Dates for all drills are listed in the Dream Keeper. If ever something severe happens at the school, we have two reunification areas. One is Greenhills School on Greenhills Drive and the other one is Glacier Hills on Earhardt Drive. These are reciprocal locations as they use our location as a reunification center as well. Don't miss out on the My Future Fund opportunity for 2nd grade and up to start saving for college. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered during lunch. It's been a huge help. Last but not least, I'd like to thank the board for all their help in helping me and the school.

6. Teacher Report - Mrs. Shah/Mrs. Berger - Both teacher representatives introduced themselves. First up, Mr. Hyuck (echoed by all teachers) would like to thank the PTO for the pizza and salad dinner for Curriculum Night. Also, Ms. Kinlaw reported that Young 5's is making great progress in learning how to work with each other. Mrs. Burrill reported that students are once again borrowing library books. We are a little late with borrowing books due to the chromebook delay and new library space. She sent a huge shout out to the PTO for a grant so she could purchase different language books for the many different languages spoken at King. Lastly, thank you to the PTO for paying for the Toledo Opera: Opera on Wheels to come to King. We will have an all school assembly for the play "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf" which is a play about anti-bullying as well as teamwork and inclusion.
7. Treasurer Report - Betzy McCarty - Here is a recap of where our funds went last year: Field Trips - \$4,000.00, Teacher Mini Grants - \$17,900.00, After School Clubs - \$800.00, PTO Operations - \$1,500.00, and Other Programs - \$11,350.00. Budget items included in other programs are as follows: Staff Appreciation - \$3,500.00, Community Support - \$1,000.00, Community Events - \$4,100.00, Learning Garden - \$900.00, 5th Grade End of Year - \$1,500.00, Safety Program - \$200.00, and Student Council - \$150.00. Majority of our funds go to teacher mini grants. We also fund field trips and the PTO operating budget. Other programs we fund include community events such as Bagel Friday and Harvest Moon Festival as well as staff appreciation events. Ways to help: If families are able to donate, we suggest a donation of \$50 - \$75 per child, but really any amount is helpful. We can accept cash, checks, and Cheddar Up. Another way to help is to set up a Kroger digital account which you can link to the King PTO. You can do this at Busch's as well. Also box tops is another way to contribute. You can download the app, scan your receipt, and earn easy cash for

the school. Employer donor matching programs are great as well. Please check with your employers to see if they have a match fund. A portion of Restaurant nights comes back to the PTO as well.

8. Committee Reports -

- a. Harvest Moon - Yun Lee - The Harvest Moon Festival is a celebration of Halloween, Diwali, and the Chinese/Korean/Japanese Moon festival. Kids can wear costumes and there are games, cider, and donuts. Other fun activities include making Origami and candle holders. At the end of the evening there is a parade with lanterns. Hoping to start the festival a little later this year so that we can see the moon during the lantern walk. I will send more details later. Date is TBD. Will send out parent volunteer sign up genius in October.
- b. Science Olympiad- Lisa Whitehead - Science Olympiad is an elementary only version that competes against other schools in the Washtenaw area. It is run by Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO). Each school has their own team and own coaches. We recruit parent volunteers to help coach teams. 2nd - 5th grade only. We need a lot of event coaches - last year we had 25 event coaches. Most urgently - WESO needs us to send them 2 key volunteers for the events they are planning in May. Let Lisa know if you want to be a key volunteer. Time frame for parent recruitment is November - December and kid recruitment is December - January.
- c. Ice Cream Social - Emily Mashal - (Emily not able to attend) - Emily needs help planning and soliciting ice cream donations for the May event.
- d. Restaurant Community Nights- Erin Hill - Thursday, September 28, 11 am - 9pm at Buddy's Pizza in Ann Arbor. Dine in, carry out, or delivery (no third party delivery). Use code GIVEBACK or mention "king PTO" when ordering over phone or in store. 20% donated back to King PTO. Also, Noodles and Company on Washtenaw on October 4th from 4 pm - 8 pm. Use code: Giving25 in the app or in store mention "king PTO" so that 25% will be donated to King! Also, the whole month of October, if you buy a gift card at Launch, they will give a portion of the sales of each gift card to King PTO. Also, if there are any businesses that you frequent, please get the manager's information and send it to me, so that I can ask them if they would like to work with us to get them more business, but also help the King PTO. Please help spread the word by asking your teachers to include the upcoming restaurant events in their weekly emails. Also,

coming up November 9th, the Fowling Warehouse in Ypsilanti is hosting an event to support the King PTO. All ticket sales beforehand and at the door will go 100% to the King PTO. There will be food to purchase and a cash bar as well. This is a parent only event.

- e. Bagel Friday - First Bagel Friday coming up September 29 at 8 am on the king playground. This is a fun community based event for parents, staff, and kids to get to know each other. Hope to see you all there.
- f. Fun Run - Allison Jeter/Emily Stoneman- Allison and I have run this event for a couple of years and this our second to last year that we will be able to chair this event as our kids will be graduating King in a couple years. The Fun Run started two years ago. This event is held during the school day and classes take turns running laps around the playground. There is also a fun pool noodle obstacle course as well. Students also receive snacks and wristbands at the end. Also, we have a fun friendly competition where the class from each grade that raises the most money of the grade gets a prize. We plan on doing the event the same way this year, but we are hoping to get more sponsors. In Spring, we will ask for volunteers to help look for sponsors and then another sign up genius for seeking volunteers for the day of the event.
- g. Learning Garden - Caroline Hughes - The King Learning Garden used to be a committee with 6 people, but after covid it dwindled down to one. So far this year, it's myself and Whitney Wilkes-Krier helping in the garden, but I am looking to add more committee members. No experience needed. We are trying to rethink the garden and what is more sustainable. I'm trying to gear it toward whole foods and their health benefits. So exciting for kids to learn how our food grows and be outside in nature. In the Spring we try to take classes out to the garden, but we need parent volunteers to help with those garden visits. We're trying to find a way to make it really meaningful to the kids, but not too much of a burden to the parents and teachers. If anyone has ideas, please let me know. I was thinking of doing a survey of what parents think will be helpful. We are thinking of possibly transitioning to perennials as well. Also, October 2nd will be our garden work day. Our goal that day is having weeds pulled and mulch put down. Huron high school volunteers are welcome as well. Spring is the next time kids will probably be in the garden. Thank you to the Summer volunteers for all your hard work.
- h. King Gear - Harini - Hoping to get the sale up in the next couple weeks. Looking at other options other than Underground Printing. If we go with another company then we will need more help with distribution.

- i. Book Fair - Mandy -We host two book fairs per year. We will be hosting our first book fair the week of December 4. The date of our second book fair is tbd, most likely some time mid April. Proceeds from the book fair benefit the PTO and also our teachers' classroom libraries, the school library and reading resource room. We are always looking for volunteers the week of the book fair! It's a great way to get to know all of the teachers at King, and you can volunteer to come in when your child is visiting the fair. Remember - we can't say no to your kids buying trinkets instead of books, but you can! :) Also, this is my last year as Book Fair co-chair, so I am looking for someone to mentor this year and take on my role. It's not too much work outside of the week of the fair, and a great way to get more involved in the school. Come see me if you have questions!

- j. Academic Games - Bhuvana - Academic Games is a fun and effective way to learn math, history, and critical thinking. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 pm - 8:30 pm, from September through early March. We will not have practices during holidays or evenings of major school events. Still time to sign up. King has been having a successful time in academic games in recent years.

- k. Math Club - Yunus -(Yunus not able to attend) We will start the math club sessions soon. Meets Wednesdays at 5:30 pm from Oct 18-March 13th. We are excited that all is going well with the program so far.

- l. Directory - Amanda Francis - (Amanda not able to attend) directory is coming out in Saturday's newsletter and to remind people they can still add their info. Living document and just keeps updating.

- m. Teacher Appreciation - no update given

9. Addressing Question:

- a. What is going with Space Camp? Tiffany and Koren answered - The PTOC and school district have decided that Space Camp is not an equitable opportunity across the district and therefore want to focus on other opportunities, like Howell Nature Center, that are more accessible for all schools in the district. Lisa Whitehead - 5th grade kids had an amazing time at Howell Nature Center last year. Fifth graders work on team building and use what they learned throughout the year. Also, anyone can go to Space Camp on their own time.

- b. Will there be Zoom meeting options for future PTO Meetings. Tiffany answered - Yes, most meetings this year are on Zoom with the exception of the September meeting and the April meeting.
- c. Does King have a PTO rep? Tiffany answered - We are in search of a new PTOC rep and if you are interested please email the King PTO.

10. Old Business: none

11. New Business: Committee Chairs Needed for the following

- Holiday Chair - Work with the Social Worker to coordinate Thanksgiving Drive as well as Project Snowman.
- Silent Auction Chairs - Two chairs to lead
- Harvest Moon Committee member -Work with the chair to gather supplies for crafts and set up
- International Night/Day -Hasn't been back since pre-pandemic. Blank canvas to get it started again!
- Disability Awareness Workshop - Work with Assistant Principal and outside company to coordinate ½ day workshop for 4th graders

12. Meeting Adjournment: 7:45 pm

13. Motion to adjourn: Erin Hill

14. Seconded: Alison Emmitt