

January 14, 2015

Present at Meeting

Daniel Ryan, Amy Boehm, Byrd Rhyne, Julia Werner, Erin Donaldson, Tracey McDowell, Heather Pigott and Georgie Geraghty

- I. Welcome and Introductions - Georgie Geraghty
- II. Minutes Approved for December - Tracey McDowell
- III. Principal's Report- Daniel Ryan
 - A. Stand up desks have arrived, teachers are happy
 - B. Kindness Connection project for veterans in conjunction with MLK Jr. Day will take place on Friday, January 16th,
 - C. Make up last Wednesday's day off due to cold weather at the end of the school year
 - D. Olivia Hoyt did a wonderful job handling all the illnesses in December
 - E. Winter Sing was a great success
 - F. Working on coding club idea with other district elementary schools
 - G. Trisha Kocanda has been informed about possibility of a proposal to change our playground
 1. she wants to make sure all systems are in place
 2. understands there would need to be a district employee acting as project manager
 - H. PARCC testing information has been sent to all parents
 1. district is sending same information to all parents
 2. January 29 all district schools will host a parent session to allow parents to take the test and see what is about
 3. district 36 has agreed not to teach to the test; parents will be informed about how the district views understanding the test results
 4. Illinois School Code does not allow parents to opt their children out of taking the test
 - I. Alliance Networking Dinner is next Thursday
 1. thank you to PTO for sponsoring 12 teachers to attend
 - J. Teacher retreat is later in the month
- IV. Teacher's Report- Byrd Rhyne
 - A. STAR testing is coming up for winter
 - B. Teachers are out at collaborative meetings this month
 1. helpful to meet with grade level teachers in other schools
 - C. Parent teacher party on February 6
 - D. Teacher retreat is next weekend
 1. dinner together on Friday night
 2. work sessions Saturday with lunch
 3. helps teachers rejuvenate and spend time together outside the school setting

4. happens every other year
 5. associates are all attending this year
- V. Budget - Amy Boehm and Julia Werner
- A. Results back from the audit
 1. all fine, but need to implement a couple of recommendations next fiscal year
 - B. Ways and means is almost finished; just waiting for a few receipts
- VI. School Board Meeting Report- Julia Werner
- A. Potential to add special needs classrooms in the district schools to keep students in their "home" school
 1. trying to maximize resources and meet needs of kids on IEPs
 - B. Enrollment has continued to grow since the start of school for the district
 - C. Kelly Tess is officially the principal of Skokie School
 - D. PARCC test was discussed at length
- VII. President's Report- Georgie Geraghty
- A. Dee Macey will come to discuss the changes to the website
 1. HW did not hire an outside company to create the website; Dee has managed the website on her own
 - a) current format does not align with goals of the PTO to allow for payment online (*later this was identified by Dee as being false*)
 - b) drop down menu necessary for parent party
 - c) need a website platform that will generate a spreadsheet for Paypal similar to other district schools (*this can be created within the existing platform for the HW website, per Dee*)
 - d) benefit of our website is it is user friendly and changes can be made relatively easily
 - B. FAN believes we should have a Programs Chair
 1. if there is an interested party, we will revisit this topic
 - C. Should PTOs expect Executive Board members to attend school board meetings?
 1. discussed at Central PTO
 - D. PTO By-laws being reviewed by the Central PTO
 1. discussion of having principals and teacher representative have a vote on PTO decisions
 - a) currently, teachers and principals cannot vote because they do not pay dues
 - b) dues would be waived under the proposal
 - E. Nominating committee timeline may move up
 1. interest form would be generated earlier
 2. April we would have the new chairs in place
 - F. Coding Club moving along
 1. teachers have been identified in all schools that would like to lead the club
 - G. WGST Funds are in a restricted fund

1. account needs to be reconciled
2. should there be a budget process
3. need to make Todd Burleson aware of the account and ask for input on budgeting year to year
4. should we replenish the account with money raised from sale of WGST year end DVDs?
 - (1) need to clear up where the money is currently going
5. Amy Boehm will investigate and report to Exec. at a later date

VIII. Website - Dee Macey

- A. Website platform was changed to be made user friendly so that anyone can update and run
- B. First page is upcoming events, access to Item and fun photos
- C. Parent party page was added yesterday
 1. includes Paypal button
- D. Holds PTO calendar, but not school calendar
- E. Website intended to hold PTO information, not school or district information
- F. Committees are responsible for submitting content for website and deciding where it belongs on the website
- G. Forms is next stage
 1. may need to pay for service
 2. looking at third party processor
 3. will explore Eventbrite and paper bag tickets before we commit completely to Paypal
 4. Julia Werner will work with Dee to look at options
- H. Jenny Ely is pulling photos and getting permission for photos on website
 1. need a form for HW PTO photo permission
- I. Consider having a big PR launch for the website
 1. Daniel recommends launching before spring break
 2. Treasure hunt on the website with prizes

IX. Communications Report - Erin Donaldson

- A. Item looking good, releasing next Sunday, needs a focus piece
 1. Parent Party will be featured
 2. Working on Green Team newsletter
- B. Phyllis McMillan fund received \$700 more in donations; fund continues to grow
- C. Working on setting up Facebook page for HW Anniversary