

November 12, 2014
Home of Amy Boehm
12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Present at the Meeting: Heather Pigott, Jennifer Hayes, Byrd Rhyne, Julia Werner, Erin Donaldson, Georgie Geraghty, Tracey McDowell, Amy Boehm, Trisha Kocanda, Nat Roberts, Daniel Ryan

- i. Welcome and Introductions - Georgie Geraghty
 - i. Sharing of thank you notes from teachers and staff given since the beginning of the year
 - ii. Faculty fun lunches are well received with the new format of lunch being provided not by parent donations
 - iii. Welcome to Trisha Kocanda, who is attending the meeting
- ii. Teacher's Report - Byrd Rhyne
 - i. Everything is really going well with curriculum and learning
 - ii. Fun lunches are a great way for teachers to build community; very appreciated
 - iii. Thank you for the Ways and Means PTO contributions
 - iv. Book fair coming up next week
 - v. Teacher contract voting is coming on Friday; seems to be positive from the teacher's perspective
 - vi. Staff retreat is happening in January; all associates are coming
 - i. Staying downtown; work and community building
- iii. Budget - Amy Boehm
 - i. Budget is posted on the HW PTO website
 - ii. First school within District 36 to post online; serving as a model for other schools
 - iii. Paypal to be up for the parent party in February
 - iv. Ways and Means still have a few more receipts to be submitted for purchases
 - v. Received Infosnap check and it was significantly higher than budgeted
- iv. Approval of Minutes - Tracey McDowell
 - i. Using Google Docs for future meetings
 - ii. Give Tracey Gmail addresses for link to minutes
 - iii. Due to inability to access minutes via Google docs, the October minutes will be discussed and voted upon at the November meeting
- v. Principal's Report - Daniel Ryan
 - i. Communities are built; great work in classrooms
 - ii. Grateful for PTO support
 - iii. Health inspector visited and was pleased to see Kiddos
 - iv. Math letter sent out on Monday
 - i. Attended NCTM math conference along with special education teachers who will differentiate for students
 - v. One day special education retreat for the collective group to all get on the same page and all systems consistent
 - vi. Town hall meetings are really being led by students
 - vii. Update on World Travelers
 - i. 130 children signed up, largest group so far

- ii. Travelogue is being held in the Resource Center which is a new format; in past years the Travelogue was held in the Spanish room and children ate their lunch while listening to the presentation. For this Travelogue half of the participating children will eat lunch in the lunchroom while the other children attend the Travelogue in the Resource Center. At the mid-point of the lunch hour, the Travelogue children will head to the lunchroom for lunch while the other children head to the Resource Center for the second Travelogue session.
 - viii. Bill Bricker story has received a lot of media attention; nothing new
- vi. President's Report - Georgie Geraghty
 - i. Request for HW PTO to be the sponsor organization for Cub Scouts
 - i. The Cub Scouts has decided to look elsewhere for a sponsoring organization but the question has given rise to larger policy questions.
 - ii. General policy of PTO board is not to sponsor organizations
 - iii. Concern with the Boy Scout social policies
 - iv. The Central PTO may consider modifying the bylaws to advise against the sponsorship of any organization by the school PTOs.
 - v. Buildings are open to groups such as Cub Scouts to use the school facilities
 - ii. Coding Club being considered for HW
 - i. Concern for equity between schools, would need to see if there is interest in the other elementary schools
 - iii. Thank you to Jen Hayes for helping to clean out the PTO closet
 - i. Unneeded items were donated to teachers, custodians, New Trier Food Pantry
 - iv. Paypal for next year
 - i. Lois is excited about the prospects
 - ii. Will lessen the cost of paper and mailing for the fall mailing because forms can be online
 - iii. Overwhelmingly positive response from parents
- vii. Vice Presidents Report - Jen Hayes
 - i. Room parents are instructed to have a formal or informal gathering in the fall of each school year
 - i. Issues this year have created a need for the PTO to clarify the purpose of the beginning of the year party
 - ii. Teachers want it to be only their class; not whole grade
 - iii. Should not charge for these informal parties; potluck is acceptable
 - iv. Language will be drafted to help clarify the party parameters for next year
 - v. The language will strongly recommend class only parties (as opposed to grade level events) and potlucks in lieu of fee based parties
- viii. Communications Report - Erin Donaldson
 - i. 900 pumpkins composted
 - ii. McMillan book contributions at 35 books (about \$750.00)
 - iii. Item is working well in current format; concern of not getting too long
- ix. Discussion and Decisions - All
 - i. Proposal for 6 additional stand up desks and 30 BackJack chairs

- i. Insufficient funds to cover all stand up desks and BackJack chairs, as requested
 - ii. Daniel Ryan will purchase 4 stand up desks and as many BackJack chairs as the budget allows
 - iii. Motion to approve the purchase with no more than \$4500 spent
 - iv. Two additional stand up desks would be ideal, need to see if they fit within the budget
- ii. Current Central PTO By-Laws, outgoing checks must have co-signers
 - i. With Paypal, only one person is needed to sign checks over \$500
 - ii. Checks paid electronically must be approved via email by another authorized officer and the email must be attached and retained with the treasurers records
 - iii. Upon a motion, the Board voted to approve an amendment to the Central PTO bylaws whereby a single person may sign an electronic check provided a second signer approve the check via email.
- iii. School board meeting report
- iv. Trisha on Assessment
 - i. PARCC Assessment coming, how will this be received by community?
 - ii. Illinois is a PARCC state; based on Common Core
 - iii. Performance based versus multiple choice on the computer mid year
 - iv. End of year test is more traditional
 - v. Third grader will be tested for 13-14 hours vs. 8 for ISAT
 - vi. No paper and pencil option
 - vii. Teachers getting anxious because of responsibility
 - viii. Is test required? Yes
 - ix. Philosophically, how much time should we spend on testing? What are the ramifications if they don't take the tests and go into a test taking environment
 - x. Pull back on STAR in May

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05