

Peterson PTA Minutes

03/09/17

Meeting called to order at 9:35am

Allison Landstrom, Principal

- Mrs. Landstrom needs our help with coats. We have many students going outside for recess who don't have a warm enough jacket or they are forgetting them in the classroom. Classroom teachers will be reminding students to take their coats with them to lunch and we ask that parents, please make sure their child is adequately dressed for the weather. The lunch room supervisors can't take students back up to the classrooms to get their coats. Students will be going outside with what they have.
- The science fair was amazing. A big thank you to Kristina Beliveau for all her hard work.
- PARCC testing starts next week for 5th graders. 3rd and 4th grades will start testing after spring break. Testing is done over 4 days. If your kids aren't feeling well during the testing periods it is ok to have them stay home. Make-up test will be available.
- The optional parent input letter will be coming home after spring break. This is your chance to talk about the kind of teaching style that works best for you child. You can also list 2 students you would like to see your child in that same class with or 2 students that you would like to not see in the same class as your child. Please no teacher requests.

Christine Ficks, President

- Asked everyone to review the minutes from the last meeting. No one had any changes. Made a motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
- The Shoe Box Program has ended. Just need to pack up and ship the shoes. After the shoes are received and weighted, we will be sent a check.
- Directories have been sent home. There are extras available and can be purchased for \$5.00 until they are gone.
- Christine has received a lot of emails about the directories and why some people haven't gotten them. There has been some confusion about whether people are PTA members and Gold Paw members. This confusion may be a result of people signing up online to be members and then forgetting to actual send in the check for membership.
- Need to figure out a way to promote the benefits of being a PTA member next year.
- Next year considering have PTA membership payments online.
- Scullen uses a Membership Tool Kit that allows their PTA membership to be paid for online. Will look into this more and get details on how it is working for them. Some have heard that since going to payment online, their membership is down 70%.
We also need to try and figure out a way to get more people to volunteer to help at events. Need to stress that some PTA events may get cancelled if we can't get enough volunteers.
- Would love to get more teachers involved with PTA events. Mrs. Landstrom may come up with an incentive plan for this.
- We will have board member positions needed for next year as this is Devin, Jen and Sangeeta's last year on the board. We will be looking for 1 or 2 Vice Presidents and a treasurer. We are working on putting together a nominating committee. If anyone is interested, please contact Christine.
- This is also a good time for all committee heads to decide if they want to continue their positions next year. There also some open committee head positons open for anyone who wants to get more involved.

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Sangeeta Prasad, Vice President – Buddy Bench

- The Buddy Bench is moving along.

Christine Ficks, President – School Supply Kits

- Jen Watson couldn't be here today. She has agreed to do school supply kits again this year as her last act as vice president. This year all sales will be online only.

Christine Ficks, President - Budget

- Devin is out of town and couldn't be here today. Not too much has changed on the budget since last month. There will be some LMC remodel and Buddy Bench expenses next month.
- We needed to give more money to the 5th grade end of year party. Since we have more students this year, they need another bus. We had some discretionary money and didn't want to the 5th graders to miss out on any of the end of the year festivities.
- Christine asked for a motion to be made to approve the budget. Motion was made to approve the budget. The budget was approved.

Van Ruggeri & Leslie Shepherd, Watchdogs

- Everything is going great.
- All the instructional spots are full
- There are a lot of lunch/recess spots available. Emily will put the sign-up link on the PTA Facebook page.
- Dads do need to wear a Watch Dog t-shirt. The t-shirts are sent home as soon as the dads buy them. If they don't have one on the day they are signed up for, there are extras in the PTA drawer. The t-shirts cost \$10.00.

Karrie Mascari & Jen Wang, After School Programs

- The last session of chess starts today
- The last session of Engineering for kids starts on April 10th.
- Please make sure your children know what days they are staying after school and please be sure to send in a note to school.
- Peggy spends about an hour a day for every after-school activity organizing and gathering names so we know where everyone is supposed to be.
- Karrie and Jen are going to chess today to check out the attendance process.

Amie Strasma, Daddy/Daughter Dance

- The dance is on April 21st, from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Amie couldn't be here today but sent an update that plans are moving along.
- Volunteers will be needed for activities
- Will follow up with Amie to see if she needs any help.

Christine Ficks, President - Multicultural Evening

- Neha couldn't be here today. The committee has been meeting and planning for the event.
- Paper dolls will be sent home before Spring Break. There will be one doll for each child. A letter with instructions will be sent home with the doll.
- Will need room moms help cutting out the dolls. Watch for a sign-up genius.
- Ideas for the dolls can be found by googling multicultural dolls online. Some pictures will also be on the instructions.

Christine Ficks, President – Teacher Appreciation Week

- The committee had their first meeting and plans are in the works.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May.

Emily Brosnahan, Spirit Wear

- Tomorrow is the next spirit day. Mrs. Landstrom made a reminder announcement this morning and will make another one at the end of the day.

Christine Ficks, President – Dinner Nights

- Beth Sessa & Hannah Niziolek couldn't be here. The next dinner night is on March 22nd at McDonalds from 5:00pm until 7:00pm.
- McDonalds's is giving us 15% of sales. They are also giving us 250 free apple pies to sell. We will be selling them for \$3.00 each. Need volunteers to help Beth and Hannah sell the pies.

Joann Frisby, Ink Recycling

- Keep turning any ink cartridges that you have.

Christine Ficks, President - Box Tops

- Stephanie Dyniewski couldn't be here today. There will be an update in this Sunday's newsletter with the winner of the contest and how much we raised.

Christine Ficks, President – Muffins with Moms

- Neha couldn't be here today. Muffins with Moms is on 5/18. Will follow up with Neha on status of planning.

Christine Ficks, President – Print Directory

- Talked about directory earlier. Extras are \$5.00 until they are gone.

Christine Ficks, President - Yearbook

- Is on schedule.

Christine Ficks, President - PDAC

- Discussed the Multicultural night already.

Colleen Keen, IPPC

- The district has hired a third party to handle registration this year. Hopefully more of the process will be online. They are also hoping to reduce residency verification in half to 6,000 home from 12,000 homes. This will hopefully result in less work for the school.
- Nothing happening in Springfield. Our district is still \$10 ½ million short. They are discussing a Property Tax freeze.

Christine Ficks, President – New Business

- Rosemarie Rutecki came into talk about her business Mashtopatoes. This is an online resource to help the community get in touch with others. People can find babysitters, get help running errands and help parents connect with other parents. Matches people with other people who need support.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33am