

**Board Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2022**

1. In attendance: Jamie Farber, Katie Prince, Kendra Reinoehl, Theresa Sacharski, Meg Shier, Rebekah Spoelhof, Colleen Fuelling, Amanda Tank
   1. Called to order – 6:37 PM
2. President’s Report – Jamie
   1. Approve [minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FNzsneOoYiA0mliyUumZv3PkqBG20-qG/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109101118412584782751&rtpof=true&sd=true) from meeting on 10/05/22
      1. Theresa motioned to approve the minutes and Meg seconded
   2. Conference Dinner Wrap Up
      1. Heard nothing but positive from the staff
      2. From our perspective, it’s getting ridiculous trying to get main courses donated
      3. Spent about $300
         1. Had $120 donated
      4. No volunteers to chair or help with clean up
         1. Same families over and over and many of these are aging out
         2. New families don’t always know what’s going on
            1. So much communication – no fix for that
            2. Teacher emails get read the most

Teachers don’t like to send out stuff that directly benefits them

* + - * 1. Room parents could send out information
        2. Lot of information and/or something they’ve never experienced
        3. Principal’s email is too long
    1. Cater in the future
       1. Pizza and one other meal
       2. Sign up genius for desserts, drinks, plates, napkins, plasticware, and money
       3. Tired of scrubbing crock pots
          1. If we don’t cater, crock pots must have liners
    2. If we could find someone to chair it, things would go better
    3. Staff appreciation in the spring is a big push
       1. Conferences are usually in March, so they’re a little bit separated
    4. While there’s a lack of engagement from other families at the school, then we should take the hard stuff off of the board until we have more engagement
       1. Signing up for cleanup is an easy way to show people what it’s all about and get future chair people
  1. Book Fair Wrap Up
     1. Courtney was going to give $50 in scholastic dollars for the teachers
        1. Include STARS
        2. Need to confirm if this was done
     2. $4685.79 earned in Scholastic bucks
        1. Use it to buy books for staff at the holidays
           1. Used to pull them from the bins at the book fair
        2. Find other ideas in the catalog for other staff
        3. Scholastic bucks can be used for classroom needs
           1. Learning, STEM, author visits, outdoor games
     3. Previously already had $3000 in scholastic bucks
        1. Shouldn’t be hoarding it, but rather spending it on the kids annually
     4. Ask teachers to create a holiday wish list from the catalog
        1. Can send emails through the scholastic website
     5. Use $50 in Scholastic cash as a Holiday raffle item
     6. Volunteers at the book fair
        1. Good to have volunteers on the wish list days for K-2 to help them write books down.
        2. Later in the week, Courtney was trying to send volunteers home because there was only one register
  2. Lima Candle Fundraiser
     1. Need to post something
        1. Only 111 sold, last year 250 sold
     2. Mrs. Pachulski does have an art winner for the prize
        1. Ended up just being the 3rd and 4th grade because she had been sick
        2. I don’t think this is why sales are down
     3. Hasn’t been enough social media about it
        1. Posted on FB twice
        2. In the PTO newsletter
        3. Last year Mrs. Stout was taking more pictures that we were posting to FB
     4. Some people might have quite a collection of candles because they don’t burn candles much
        1. Maybe do the fundraiser every other year?
        2. Remind people that they can stock up for holiday gifts
     5. First candle sale with Wax Poetic was in the spring
        1. Could flip flop seasons from year to year
        2. People more likely to burn candles in fall and winter
     6. Ask room parents to send something out
     7. Does someone have time to make a graphic?
     8. Share on our personal pages
  3. Cookie Exchange and Staff Gifts
     1. Students get out early this year – December 16th
     2. Have the exchange in the art room for more space, so we have to do it on a Friday
        1. December 9th
        2. Need to find out when the holiday parties will be
           1. December 15th morning (half day)
     3. Kendra and Theresa will chair this event
        1. Need a lot of boxes
           1. Tissue paper in the boxes
           2. Dollar Store had tons of tins
           3. The staff really like the boxes

Hold 3 dozen

* + 1. We ended up buying a bunch of cookies with PTO money last year because donations were down
       1. Usually call FHF to get a gift card donated and use it to buy winter-themed cookies – Rebekah can contact FHF
    2. Staff doesn’t like the Lofthouse cookies or Oreos
    3. Gave extras last year to the bus drivers, fire station, and Central-side principals
    4. Can just reuse last year’s sign up genius
    5. Had flowers that we then raffle off
       1. Rebekah can do the flowers
       2. Trader Joe’s
       3. Used vases that were here
       4. Kendra has a lot of vases
       5. Some staff bring them back and some don’t
    6. Starts at 11:00
       1. Setup after drop off
    7. Usually have hot cocoa
       1. Kristin Lutz had a crockpot recipe
       2. Buy K-cups with whipped cream and sprinkles and paper cups
          1. Kendra will handle this
       3. Panera does a hot cocoa bar
          1. Colleen can see how much it costs
    8. Raffle items
       1. Previous year ideas:
          1. Extra Lima candles
          2. $50 Scholastic dollars

Didn’t have many entries

* + - * 1. Holiday decorations
        2. Lego set
        3. Half day sub

Mrs. Bocian and Mrs. D haven’t taken theirs

* + - * 1. Restaurant/Amazon gift cards
        2. Koetsier’s Pot
      1. Think of ideas for this year
      2. Had about 8 items last year
      3. Staff had two tickets each
      4. If we don’t have an auction, businesses may donate items
         1. Lima plans on donating candle making class
    1. Nice to give staff the gifts at the cookie exchange
       1. Scholastic takes forever to ship
          1. Need to start wish lists now

Concern is we’ll be tracking staff down

Will select default items if not picked by a certain date

* + - * 1. Jamie will find out how long they’re taking on shipping
        2. Need it by 12/5 so people can wrap

Do we need to wrap if they already know what they’re getting?

* 1. Original Works Price Increase
     1. Most people probably won’t notice an increase
     2. Original Works still is the cheapest
     3. Known commodity and haven’t had many issues
  2. Give Back Events
     1. Mr. Lowell mentioned the ice skating event
        1. Kids liked it, but staff didn’t attend
        2. Didn’t cost a lot
        3. Did it in February last year
     2. Movie Theater
        1. Phoenix
           1. Would have to be during the week
           2. Kendra will find out pricing from Phoenix
        2. Celebration
           1. Does rent out theaters on weekends
           2. Just put in recliners so the seat count has gone down quite a bit
           3. With a restaurant night at Buffalo Wild Wings or Herb and Fire Pizza

Wednesday is Kids’ Night at Buffalo Wild Wings

* + - 1. Could do the week before Christmas when the kids are out of school
         1. Home Alone
         2. NHS students to monitor the kids so parents can shop
    1. Movie Night at school
    2. Parents’ Afternoon/Night Out at GRG
       1. Used to do it as a fundraiser - $20/kid and we got a portion
    3. Magician?
  1. Auction this year?
     1. Do not have a chair
     2. Planning on earning $7500 on the auction, so we will take a hit if we don’t have that
        1. Will come out of SAW budget
     3. Used to be at the same time as the carnival
        1. Used to be inside and in March with the auction setup in the cafeteria
        2. Carnival moved to May outside
     4. Kelly Lacey had bought and donated software to run the auction online the week leading up to the carnival with the items at the carnival in person
     5. Last auction was Spring 2021
        1. Used a different software that was much cheaper
           1. Kelly’s software was more than we needed and really complicated
        2. Had virtual wine tasting at the same time
        3. Auction software kept going even after the time limit if people were competing for the same item
           1. Need a tie breaker in place

Both write down their top bid and that’s what they pay

* + 1. Does bring in a lot of money due to the teacher experiences
       1. Previous experiences:
          1. Skinner and Lowell take kids out fishing - $2000 alone
          2. Movie at Mrs. O’s house
          3. Blandford Nature Center, Zoo, Basketball game, Hockey game, private art lesson, principal for a day, tennis lessons
       2. Most of the teachers will only take a child currently in their class
          1. Hear complaints about the auction being every other year
          2. Do a smaller auction with teacher experiences every year
          3. Teachers were on board to do those
       3. Trying to do more fun options
          1. Someone donates the experience so it’s not on the teachers to pay for it
          2. Tend to do experiences at the grade level
          3. Usually at the end of the year
          4. Kids are excited to be there just with their teacher
       4. Ada Vista does some crazy experiences
          1. Backstage tour of the airport
    2. Can do at the same time as a PNO
       1. Get them drinking so they bid and then close it
          1. Changed it from fancy event at country club due to inclusivity and cost
       2. VanderMill has a huge party space
       3. Fowling would be a good spot
    3. When do we need to get a chairperson?
       1. Blurb of what they need to do:
          1. Drum up donations
          2. Someone outgoing and with connections
       2. Theresa has contacts from walk who didn’t want to donate money
       3. Amanda is working on putting together guides for everything
          1. Been playing catchup
       4. Previous auction chairs were friends of Jamie’s
       5. Last chair, Kelly, had done auctions for Humane Society
       6. Board can help with running the preview event
       7. Send out blurb from room parents
       8. Do in May with the carnivals
          1. Need to find someone by February
  1. Staff Appreciation Week
     1. Start thinking about the theme
        1. Encanto/Disney
        2. Board Games
        3. Decide by February/March
     2. Had so much fun with Harry Potter
        1. Need interactive piece again
           1. Games everyday

Hiding, trivia

* + - * 1. Each day was a different theme
      1. Kids knew Harry Potter so they were into, too
      2. Photo Ops
    1. Previous themes were : Friends, Superheroes, Willy Wonka
    2. Board usually just does it without a chair
       1. Don’t trust someone else to take it on
       2. Staff has high expectations

1. Fundraising - Theresa
   1. Koetsier’s - $286.90 made
   2. Restaurant Nights
      1. Noco - $200
      2. Will follow up with Vitale’s tomorrow
         1. Good amount of people, but not too crazy
      3. Trying to get one for December
      4. Love to have one every month
      5. Reached out to Culver’s, but haven’t heard back
         1. Requires staff to work
      6. Nobody wanted Zoup
      7. Herb and Fire was popular
         1. Katie’s brother-in-law works at Celebration
      8. Hungry Howie’s was okay
2. Treasurer’s Report - Amanda
   1. Budget
      1. Updated with new numbers from walk
      2. Will need to cut down SAW if there’s no auction
   2. Profit/Loss
      1. Sent via email
   3. Cultural Arts
      1. Fran would like an author visit – Jarrett Learner
         1. Split with Pine Ridge
         2. Increase the budget for this
   4. Grants
      1. $600 – Principal – Color Ink
         1. $2000 for the year and used most already
         2. $1500 grant for the year – fills in holes in the budget and subs for running records
         3. Approved
      2. PE - $400 – Dodgeballs, training volleyballs
         1. Only have $100 grant
         2. Service the entire school
         3. Stuff is getting expensive
         4. Have they been using their grant previous years?
            1. Amanda will look at previous years’ grants
            2. If we approve, we’ll let them know this is not going to be the amount every year
      3. Increase grant amounts with inflation?
         1. $600 classroom levels for the last five years+
3. Secretary - Katie
   1. Thank you notes
      1. Moira Baylog – Directory
         1. Wait until the directory is sent out
      2. Courtney Cook-Hughes - Book Fair
      3. Anyone else?
         1. Hillary Vermilye for the dance
         2. Ranger Rock Out sponsor thank you notes already went out
      4. Amanda will send contact info and gift cards to Katie
4. Spirit Wear
   1. Any headway? Jamie will check with Lori
   2. Good for before the holidays
5. PAC – Colleen
   1. Parent Advisory Council
      1. 2 reps from each school
      2. Bring issues that can’t be resolved at the building level
      3. Meeting with Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents
      4. Has become a little bit meatier with working sessions
   2. GLI (Global Learning Initiative) conversation – Most of the schools expressed confusion over what was going on with it this year so Colleen is meeting with Jackie LaFontaine to discuss
      1. Should get more clarification at the next meeting
      2. Opt in program
      3. Making sure things are equitable such as saying “winter party” instead of “Christmas party” or “Families” instead of “Parents”
      4. Scaled back Champions and doing Restorative Practices instead
   3. Lunches
      1. Incentives for buying hot lunch? Not that we know of
      2. Nutritional menus are not very satisfied
         1. Would the kids even eat it?
         2. Fun lunch isn’t very healthy
         3. Limiting the bad choices
   4. Better atmosphere at the meetings lately with lots of opinions
   5. Start times presentation on having elementary start earlier than upper or shifting the whole day
   6. Pronouns in teacher/staff emails discussed
      1. New branding guideline to not include pronoun
      2. Amway allows it
      3. Inclusivity for the teachers
   7. If any input, bring back to the PAC
6. Katie and Rebekah will count out ring pops on Monday
7. Meeting adjourned 8:12