

Jane Stenson PTA Meeting April 6, 2015 At 6:45 pm

Attendees: Irene Akbari, Vanessa Schneider, Sagit Adler, Jim Harris, Joe Ruffner, Jen Ruffner, Jason Malina, Lisa Malina, Karen Kohler-Davis, Trina Jones, Bonnie Ognisanti, Stephanie Azen, Michele Harris, Nicki Fitzpatrick, Christian Fitzpatrick, Carrie Butera, Wendy Beth Gahm, Sue O'Neil

Secretary's Report: Ana - Correction made; a member was added to the attendee list. Motion to stand as corrected and approved by Jason and Jen.

Treasurer's Report: Julie

- We are currently on budget at this point of the year.
- March 2015 Financial Report approved by Carrie and Stephanie
- Please turn in "original" receipts for reimbursements, photocopies will not be accepted.
- Please make copies of checks when submitted to for deposits. Also, make sure that the student's name are on the check's memo line.

President's Report: Lisa

- PTA received thank you notes from Ms. Byrne's class for the pizza party for box tops.
- Reminders:
 1. All contracts need to be signed by the President
 2. We can use school copy machine for PTA functions, but please use PTA paper, it is in the PTA closet.
- Bus Driver/Crossing Guard Appreciation Breakfast Will be on May 20th from 9-10 am. There will be a PTA representative from each of the 4 schools there. We will be needing volunteers.
- ELL Parent Mentors will be invited to the May meeting.
- Lisa and Mrs. O'Neil will be working on 2015-2016 PTA Handbook/Calendar:
 1. PTA members voted yes for the 6:45 time change.
 2. There are open chairman positions for next year. Anyone interested please let Lisa know.
 3. Chairman: please make sure you have your current phone number and email addresses.
- II PTA Annual Convention is on April 17-18. The cost for the workshop is \$75.00. It will be held in East Peoria, IL. Anyone interested let Lisa know.
- Standing Rules draft is completed.
- In progress: information sheet with general PTA guidelines.
- Elections for 2015-2016 officers will be held at the May meeting.
- For the May meeting three members are needed for the Audit Committee. Nominations will be taken at the May meeting.
- There are 3 open positions for District 68 Board of Education interested. Elections are tomorrow.

Principals Report: Sue

1. Good Gossip- Sylwia Laniewski had a baby girl – Grace Isabella on March 24.
2. Vandalism – Over Spring Break, 5 windows in the second grade wing were broken by vandals. We are grateful to neighbors who called the police to report this incident.
3. Garden Club – Applications have gone out with the students to participate in our Garden Club. The students will learn about the workings of a garden and will prepare the garden beds and plant starter plants. We are excited about tapping the expertise of Bonnie Ognisanti and Kevin Gahm in creating a thriving garden.
4. NTDSE Summer School – The Niles Township Department of Special Education will hold the township summer school here at Stenson. Summer school will be in the mornings beginning June 9.
5. Speed Stack Tournament- Our students will participate in a speed stacking tournament. The students really enjoy this activity and it is worth seeing.
6. District 68 Art Show – The District Art Show will be April 21st. This show will include the artwork from about 25 students per each of the four schools. Sue also discussed that the district does not participate in the Skokie SOAR Art Show because the district's show allows for more student participation.
7. Please do not put signage with tape on the glass front doors. They are treated.

Committee Reports:

- Membership: Wendy - We have gained 1 more member that joined PTA.
- Website: Carrie - Michelle and Karen Kohler-Davis motion to approve to keep Fatcow as the PTA's website host. PTA voted yes for the three year membership renewal for \$250.20.
- Bookfair: Rondell - April 8, 2015, from 3-7 pm. It's a buy one get one free book. Need 2-3 volunteers for set up from 2:00-3:00pm. Jane Stenson has \$1,000.00 scholastic dollars available for the school's library. Mrs O'Neil will take care of using the Scholastic dollars.
- Market Days: LaCeysha - After the May order, we will no longer have Market Day pick ups. The PTA sold 93 pies during Pie Days in March. PTA gets 20% of sales. The fall check (November and December) that we are still waiting for will be \$75.00. That brings the total to date at \$150.00.
- 5th Grade Party: Irene - Pinstripes will be the location for the party. \$1100.00 is the cost for the event. It will be on May 29th from 11:00 - 12:30pm.
- Silent Auction: Jen - Online bidding starts April 16. The actual event is April 23. Need volunteers during the event. Wendy still working on getting popcorn machine from Village Inn. There is a link that we can share outside our school community, i.e.

Facebook, that they can bid on. We currently have 180 items for a value of \$9500.00. If we get minimal bids on each item we can potentially earn \$2880.00.

- Restaurant Night: Karen - Working on Oberweis for May's restaurant night.
- Pre-Pack: Vanessa - Went out on Thursday, April 16th. Due May 8th online. Will need volunteers in August for distribution.
- Teacher Appreciation: Jena - Is May 4 - 8th. Gift will be a soda bottle with a message of appreciation inside. Also, will gift carnations along with soda bottles. Might need volunteers for food to be received and set-up. If parents can send in dessert on that Friday. Total cost thus far is \$700.01.
- Ice Cream Social: Bonnie - It will be Dairy Queen on June 5th. There are 475 individuals. Bonnie need a head count of those who are lactose intolerant to order popsicles instead. Lisa to sign the contract. Will need 2 volunteers, Stephanie and Michelle agreed to help.
- Ways and Means: Rebecca - A new fundraiser idea; a clothing drive done by Savers. It is a clothing store they offer non-profit organizations 0.20 cents per pound. Maybe park a truck on the weekend in front of the school. They will collect the clothes on to trucks. We will donate 25% of the proceeds to the Angel Fund. Michelle and Bonnie motioned to approve.

Unfinished Business:

- New fundraiser ideas:
 1. Read-a-thon: In a 2 week event, gather pledges for the students to read per book or per page. Need to coordinate with the teachers to gather the tracking sheets. A concern was brought up that not all families may be able to pledge. Also, we don't want to tap out our corporate vendors. Will table decision for now, and revisit next year.
 2. Sky High: Alternate idea to restaurant night. Pick a day in the beginning of the school year or use it as a welcome night for families. Motion to approve Jim and Nicky.
 3. Original Works: In the future, it could take the place of Innisbrook if it does well. It has a 30%-50% profit margin. We would need a chairperson to run this committee. To be done around November (in anticipation of the holiday season). Motion to approve Jason and Carrie. Michelle penciled in to chair.
- Nominating Committee- (Carrie, Priya, Jason) Submitted the following officers for 2015-2016 year:
 1. President - Jen Ruffner
 2. Vice-president - Stephanie Azen
 3. Secretary - Trina JanesThey will be officially inducted in at the May meeting. There is 30 days if anyone else wants to put there name in for nomination.
- Standing Rules Committee - We will table the vote until the next meeting to allow additional time for members to review the document.

New Business:

- Recommendation was made to retire the Legislation Chairman position. Historically this position would look at the Illinois PTA website to see what was new, or would advocate with legislators for our PTA. Now those duties are incorporated into the President's responsibilities, so position is redundant. Motion to approve retirement made by Karen and Stephanie; majority vote is yes.
- Recommendation was made to add a new Board Of Education Chairman. Responsibility would be to attend the monthly Board of Ed meetings, and report back each month at the PTA meetings. Motion to approve addition made by Christian and Jason; majority vote is yes. (Michelle Harris will be the Chairman for next year.)

Upcoming Events:

- No school: April 7 (Election Day)
- BOGO Bookfair: April 8, from 3-7 pm
- Speed Stacks Tournament: April 14-16 @ 3:00 pm
- Board of Education meeting: April 16 at 6:30pm
- Spring music concert: April 17 @ 2:00 pm
- District 68 Art Show: April 21 at 6:00pm (at OOJH)
- 5th grade parent orientation: April 22 @ 7:00 pm (at OOJH)
- Silent Auction and Movie: April 23 from 6-8 pm
- End of year PARCC testing begins: April 27
- Poetry Night at Barnes and Noble: April 28 at 6:00 pm
- Market Day pickup: April 30 at OOJH from 4:30 - 5:30pm (at OOJH)
- Next PTA meeting: May 4, 2015 @ 6:45. Potluck! Last meeting of the school year.

Meeting Adjourn Motion by Bonnie and Michelle