

Jane Stenson PTA Meeting, March 9,2015 at 6:45 pm

Attendees: Priya Amin, Michelle Harris, Vanessa Schneider, Cyndi Stevens, Katie McNelley, Jena Martino, Trina Janes, Stephanie Azen, Jen Ruffner, Joe Ruffner, Karen Lostaunau, Ana Bryant, Jason Malina, Julie Oh, Carrie Butera, Sue O'Neil, Lisa Malina, James Garwood, Christian Fitzpatrick, Nicki Fitzpatrick, Rebecca dela Cruz, Wannapa P. Eubanks, Diana Dixon, Bonnie Ognisanti

Secretary's Report: Ana - February minutes were read and approved by Carrie and Jen.

Treasurer's Report: Julie- February's financial report approved by Jason and Steph. Correction- Boxtops not Restaurant Night total was \$549.67. Book Fair total was \$612.00. In addition; a check for Target totaling \$139.00 came in last month.

Vice President Report: Carrie- All went well at Kindergarten orientation. Provided a letter that states PTA's mission. Also, informed how to become members of PTA. In addition, provided forms for Pre-pack. Obtained sign-up sheet for Room Parents.

President's Report: Lisa-

- New committee chairman are needed for next year. Contact Lisa if you are interested in volunteering.
- Ethical Conduct Agreement forms went missing, anyone picked it up by mistake? Yes, the Secretary, Ana, has them.
- Standing Rules- Executive Board will meet to create first draft during Spring Break. Any one interested in participating or contributing to the Standing Rules are invited to come April 1st @ 6:30 pm at Lisa's house. We will be presenting it in the April PTA meeting.
- Still working on the information sheet with general PTA guidelines.
- We have not been able to locate the minutes from Allison Zidek's presidency, but were able to find the ones from Worth Gowell's term. These are needed to create the historical list of "Standing Rules" that have been passed for our PTA organization over the last several years. Standing Rules are the guidelines (together with our Bylaws) that help govern our PTA.

Principal's Report: Sue O'Neil-

Directly following our February PTA meeting, a parent forum to discuss traffic safety around the school. On February 17, PTA Vice President Carrie Butera, Superintendent Garwood and Sue O'Neil met with the police department and Village of Skokie as well. Since these meetings, the school has added an extra supervisor in the morning to the circle drive and glow sticks are being used to help direct cars. The district is purchasing protective wear for the supervisors and has paid for periodic police detail. The police committed to issuing tickets for

traffic offenders. Last week, Cook County came out and installed new and updated signs. They will also evaluate the length of time the light stays green for southbound traffic on Church while students cross. A lighted stop sign is also being considered. Thank you to Michelle Harris for her coordination of meals to our crossing guard and the regular updates.

PARCC testing started last week for fifth grade and this week for third and fourth. The students are doing a remarkable job on this new format of assessment.

Our students in our 1:1 pilot are taking their devices home which is the exciting for the students. Our students with devices have done some creative problem solving, collaborative projects, and are now broadcasting our morning announcements on Fridays.

Registration is taking place for incoming Kindergarten students. If you know families that will be attending Stenson next year, please encourage them to get registered.

Our four ELL Parent Mentors completed their volunteer program. It would be nice to invite them to our next PTA meeting to honor their work.

Dr. James Garwood:

- Goal to come out and meet with parents and staff.
- The mentors are going to be attending the board meeting.
- Upcoming event on Wednesday, March 18, 2015; TLI68 forum (Teacher and Learning In 68). It's the 1:1 initiative. It was being piloted in district 68 for 10 weeks first at the elementary level now at OOJH. There will be a presentation with how the pilots is doing thus far. What the goals are and feedback from the kids and the teachers who had been surveyed. At the end of the junior high they surveyed the students and teachers to see what their experience was teaching with technology. At the April board meeting plan to rollout the pilot for next year. the students are trialing to different device, Notebooks and I pads. At this presentation, hope to hear from parents and any questions they have after the presentation for a Q&A forum.
- PARCC testing has started. Still getting information about it from the state. Its a test to measure the common core standards and how the students are doing. It is also used to measure how the educators are doing in teaching the common core. Some concerns that came up with the PARCC testing is if the district 68 was prepared for technology. The students did well with the technology in our district. Another concern is how long PARCC testing takes. Some kids are taking less time than the recommended time.
- There were three snow days used. Therefore; Friday, June 5, 2015 is the last day of school.

Committee Reports:

- Membership: Wendy- nothing to report. No new members.
- Website: Carrie- Viewership of PTA website has gotten 7,000 hits. With 400 unique IP addresses looking at the website. 8,000 individuals downloaded Documents from our website. Website up for renewal in July. Looking for a cheaper hosting site or continue with Fat Cow
- 5th Grade party: Irene - The venues up for vote was either Brunswick or Pinstripes. Brunswick includes 2 slices of pizza and a drink for \$12 per child. For a total of \$864.00. Pinstripes includes 1 personal pizza, drink and dessert for \$15 per child. For a total of \$1,080.00. Teachers and chaperones also have to be factored in for the cost of the food. The vote was in favor for Pinstripes. Motion to approve increase of budget up to \$300.00. Motion to approve the increase by Michelle and Jen.
- Ice cream Social: Bonnie- The budget is \$650.00. Dairy Queen is offering popsicles and Dilly bars for 0.75/student. That brings the total to \$337.50. Still have to confirm with Dairy Queen about delivery. However, they give us coolers and they provide personnel to set up and pass out the ice cream. They also clean up afterwards. Devonshire uses Dairy Queen.
- Boxtops Diana- Collected \$405.00 for the spring contest. Ms. Byrne's class won. They will be having their pizza party on Wednesday. We are \$48.00 short for reaching our goal of \$1000.00. On specially marked boxes there is a new sweepstakes that a school can win 1,000,000 boxtops.
- Silent Auction: Jen- Silent Auction is going well. We have about 90 items and 60 were uploaded to the site. I asked Carrie to link the auction site to the PTA website. Let everyone know that we can't use Lego name or images in any online advertising, so Carrie created a separate flyer for email, website and Facebook purposes. Will need some extra hands the night of the event if anyone wants to help they can reach out to me. We will take cash, checks and CC the night of, but the online auction will be CC only via paypal (you do NOT need to have a paypal acct to do this). If anyone has other donation ideas please do pass along. Village Inn has donated popcorn in the past, but their machine is down. We are looking into someone else to donate popcorn.
- Ways and Means: Rebecca- Original Works;
 1. An Art fundraiser that allows you to turn your child's artwork into keepsakes. Original Works offers 33% profit margin to the school, free art paper, free shipping, flexible pricing on keepsakes items and 12 business day turnaround. Some open ended questions that did not get answered is: How would this work? Would we send home for the kids to do the artwork at home? Do classes have free time to create the artwork? Can this be included in the art curriculum? - Sue answered this one in email, saying it could not. a follow up question, is there something in the curriculum that we could already use?
 2. Book-A-Thon: Just like the walk-a-thon. We ask family/friends/co-workers to sponsor a

child to read so many books during a time frame (1-2 weeks?).

3. Sky High Sports: Reserve a date (like restaurant night). Cost is \$10.00 to get in and we earn \$3.00 per jumper up to 75, 76-150 jumpers we get \$4.00 per jumper and 151+ jumpers we get \$5.00 per jumper. —During the PTA meeting a question came up to check the PTA insurance to make sure it's not an issue to go to Sky High (liability issue). Does a separate form need to be signed by parent to waive any liabilities?

- Bookfair (Rondell): The “Buy One Get One” bookfair will be on April 8th from 4-7pm. Please contact Rondell if you are able to volunteer.
- Restaurant Night: Karen- Last event brought in \$420.00. JS receives 20% of that amount for a profit of \$84.00. The manager rounded up to \$100.00. Check is still pending from Potbelly from January. The village Inn is our next event on April 2, 2015. From 11am-9pm.
- Pre-pack: Vanessa- The teachers have handed in their list. Everything came on time for the Kindergarten orientation. Forms will go home with the students after Spring break, April 1. The forms will be due back April 15th, online May 2nd. If purchase online you have to pay sales tax. A request from Julie is if the name of the students can be on the checks. That way the parent can be located if there is a problem with the check.
- Market Days (Laceysha): A new flyer will be going home letting parents know that from now on they can only make purchases by check and credit card (not cash), and another eblast went out with information about the upcoming Pie Sale orders and pick up. At this point, we are missing all but one of our Market Days checks, because they combined the Pie Sales with November/December and gave all of the money to OOJH, the January sale was canceled, and we have not yet received the payment for February/March combined. Laceysha has also been promoted to being the Market Day rep for the entire district, so is in need of a new Jane Stenson rep. After discussion, it was decided not to participate in Market Days next year. Motion made by Jenna and Rebecca.
- Family Game Night: Michelle- we netted \$220.00. It was a successful night!

Unfinished Business:

- PTA meeting time will continue at 6:45pm through the end of the year, and has been updated on the district calendar with the new time.
- The other three District 68 PTA's have agreed to host the “Bus Driver/Crossing Guard Appreciation Breakfast” with us, and we are waiting for Dr. Garwood to give us a date to hold the event. We anticipate approximately 50 guests in total, so the estimated cost is \$200 for the four PTA's to split evenly – for an individual PTA cost of \$50. There was discussion, and it was approved for the JS PTA to spend up to \$50 for this event. Jen and Michelle approved this motion.

