

FINAL / APPROVED

Jane Stenson PTA

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016

Attendees: Steph Azen, Ana Bryant, Carrie Butera, Sevan Elmayan, Wendy Gahm, Peggy Hayes, Trina Janes, Karen Koehler-Davis, Rondell Merrill, Julie Oh, Sue O'Neil, Karalee Robb, Jennifer Ruffner, Joe Ruffner and Vanessa Schneider.

1. **Call to Order:** Jen Ruffner opened the meeting in the Stenson School library at 6:50 p.m.
2. **Secretary's Report:** Trina Janes shared the minutes from the January 2016 meeting which were then adopted unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Julie Oh presented the Treasurer's report. She is still waiting for the check from Father & Son Pizza. The report was approved unanimously.
4. **President's Report:** Jen shared the following:
 - a. At the PTA Coordinating Committee meeting, Garwood reported on the coffees he hosted. Dr. Garwood said they were working on after school programs but it would likely not happen this year. The board has other priorities such as testing, staff development and science curriculum.
 - b. Stenson will soon be offering a "What is Normal" program similar to what Highland has scheduled.
 - c. The PTA is still looking for a Treasurer to serve for the next two school years when Julie's term will end this summer. A Nominating Committee for treasurer was formed with Wendy Gahm, Sevan Elmayan and Ana Bryant as members.
 - d. Innisbrook is discontinuing its fundraising activity. We will need to find alternative fundraising opportunities.
 - e. There was a discussion about using PTA funds to purchase items from the recess wish list. The membership decided to postpone any decision until the March meeting when we will have a better understanding of the silent auction proceeds and overall revenue and give people more time to personally donate items.
5. **Principal's Report:** Sue O'Neil provided her report.
 - a. The Stenson Variety Show will take place on Friday, Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. Class Valentine's Day parties will follow at 2:15 p.m.
 - b. Parents are encouraged to take the 5Essentials survey. Computers will be available during conferences.
 - c. Viva! Coming Together in Skokie's opening ceremony was held on Jan. 31. Activities and events celebrating the Latino culture will take place over the next two months.
 - d. Sadly Andrea Getzler, ELL teacher at OOJH, passed away last week.
 - e. Family Fun Night was a very positive experience for families. Many people helped clean up so the process was quite swift.
 - f. Some donations have been received to provide more activity during both indoor and outdoor recess. Fortunately the weather has been mild this

winter, so the kids have only spent a couple days sitting in the hallway during indoor recess.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. **Spirit Wear (Karalee Robb, Chair):** There was discussion about converting Spirit Wear into a fundraiser. Many people already think that it is currently a fundraiser, but it has not been. A motion was made and seconded and the membership voted unanimously to convert Spirit Wear into a fundraiser beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Karalee will work with the vendor to get more readable flyers with color images of the spiritwear options and consider adding new items at different price points for sale. With spirit wear now being a fundraiser, the PTA can set slightly higher prices on select items.
- b. **PrePack (Vanessa Schneider, Chair):** Vanessa is working with the district to finalize the school supply list. She will then work with the vendor to place an order. She will have the information in time for kindergarten orientation. Orders are due in early May.
- c. **Innisbrook (Priya Amin, Chair):** We received a profit of \$274 from the online Innisbrook orders.
- d. **Restaurant Night (Karen Lostaunau, Chair):** We are still waiting for the Father & Son Pizza's check from November. The next event is scheduled at Jason's Deli in Glenview on Feb. 16.
- e. **KidStuff Books (Carrie Butera, Chair):** KidStuff books generated \$437 in revenue, but the books were purchased primarily by the core PTA members. There was discussion about whether or not to continue selling the KidsStuff books. A motion to discontinue selling KidStuff books for the 2016-2017 school year was made and seconded and passed unanimously.
- f. **Book Fair (Rondell Merrill, Chair):** Rondell needs volunteers for the Book Fair on Feb 3 and 4. Ms. Layman was recently able to order \$1,200 in books using the Scholastic Dollars generated from the Book Fair. Teachers will be given the option of selecting books from the upcoming book fair for their classroom.
- g. **Cultural Arts (Wannapa Eubanks, Chair):** We are waiting to get reimbursement from the Village of Skokie's cultural arts grant for the \$500 Stenson paid towards the Brazilian samba group that performed in the fall.
- h. **Box Tops (Diana Dizon, Chair):** The next Box Tops contest will run through February 19. We are looking for a sponsor for the pizza for the winning class. Ceci's sponsored the fall contest only.
- i. **Library Volunteers (Steph Azen, Chair):** Stephanie has two parent volunteers who are planning to come in to assist with the shelving of the new shipment of Scholastic books.
- j. **Board of Education (Michelle Harris, Chair):** Jen Ruffner attended the January D68 Board Meeting. There was a presentation explaining the district's PARCC scores and why they are lower than neighboring districts (higher percentages of low income students, high mobility and special ed). The district is planning ways to close the achievement gap and needs to think creatively about ways to increase scores.
- k. **Family Game Night (Jim Harris, Chair):** The event was very successful. There were 59 pizzas consumed by 110 people on January 27. Another 50

people attended for the bingo games only. There were \$441.75 in expenses and \$550 in revenue from the food sales. So the event made a profit of \$108.25. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes and volunteered at the event.

- l. **Silent Auction (Joe Ruffner, Chair):** Joe and his committee have secured goods valued at \$11,000 for the Feb. 24 event. The Minions movie will be shown. Bruschetta and popcorn will be available for purchase. Joe will need volunteers to help sell food and assist at the event. Donations are still being collected, so please contact people and businesses who may be willing to donate. The online auction will conclude on March 3.
 - m. **Savers (Trina Janes, Chair):** Please save the items you plan to throw out or donate for the March 19 Savers donation drive event. The Savers truck will accept both soft and hard items. Tax receipts will be distributed to those donating.
 - n. **International Night (Priya Amin & Michelle Harris, Co-Chairs):** A flyer requesting performers was distributed asking students to propose acts for the April 7 event.
 - o. **Crossing Guard Appreciation (Bonnie & Michael Ognisanti, Co-chairs):** We need to confirm the event date and then will start planning.
 - p. **5th Grade Party (Ana Bryan, Lisa Malina & Katie Weil, co-chairs):** The co-chairs would like to hold the event at Pinstripes again this year.
 - q. **Teacher Appreciation (Vanessa Schneider, Stephanie Azen & Michelle Harris, Co-Chairs):** The co-chairs will be meeting to plan teacher appreciation.
 - r. **New Fundraisers (Chair needed):** There was discussion about potential new fundraising opportunities. A chair is needed for this committee. Suggestions included a coupon book for local businesses, gift card sales and Lou Malnati's frozen pizza coupons.
7. **Upcoming Events:** The following are key upcoming events.
- a. Parent Teacher Conferences: Feb. 3 and 4
 - b. Restaurant Night: Feb. 16 at Jason's Deli
 - c. Board of Education Meeting: Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.
 - d. Online Silent Auction: Feb. 18 to March 3
 - e. Silent Auction: Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.
 - f. No school: February 15 and March 7
8. **Next Meeting:** The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8 at 6:45 p.m.
9. **Adjourn:** The meeting was formally adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Trina Janes.