

Jane Stenson PTA

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Attendees: Lorraine Aguada, Keval Amin, Priya Amin, Steph Azen, Taylor Crowley, Jim Garwood, Katherine Green, Sevan Elmayan, Wannapa Eubanks, Christian Fitzpatrick, Nikki Fitzpatrick, Brian Flood, Lisa Flood, Jim Harris, Peggy Hayes, Trina Janes, Jenny Kane, Jeff Navarro, Lucie Nonah, Amy Noonan, Bonnie Ognisanti, Julie Oh, Sue O'Neil, Karalee Robb, Joe Ruffner, Julie Selig, Cyndi Stevens and Amber Wood.

1. **Call to Order:** Stephanie Azen opened the meeting at 6:48 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves to our special guest, Superintendent Jim Garwood.
2. **Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the November 2015 meeting were adopted unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Julie Oh presented the Treasurer's report. The report was approved unanimously as amended.
4. **President's Report:** Stephanie provided a report on behalf of Jen.
 - a. Thanks to everyone who helped organize events this month.
 - b. Thanks to Sue O'Neil and Jim Garwood for hosting coffees recently to meet with parents.
5. **Principal's Report:** Sue O'Neil provided her report.
 - a. The Science and Technology Fair was well attended. Many students utilized their new iPads as part of their presentation.
 - b. 44 students received flu shots at school. The district hopes to make this an annual offering.
 - c. The mobile dentist is coming to school in February. They offer basic cleanings and sealants.
 - d. A part time ELL teacher will begin in early 2016 to assist the 75 ELL students.
 - e. 5Essential Survey: Stenson had the strongest parent participation in the district for the 5Essentials Survey at 51.4%. Overall the school was rated Well Organized, the highest rating.
 - f. Indoor Recess: Following informal discussion about the need to add more movement to the indoor recess which currently involves the students sitting quietly in the hallway on bad weather days, several steps were made to make improvements. The fourth and fifth grade students were surveyed about their ideas for improvement. A Recess Committee consisting of teachers, parents and students will meet on Monday and Tuesday of next week at 12:15 to discuss ways to improve indoor recess. Parents expressed the need for the kids to have more time for unstructured movement and the desire to donate items and volunteer time to improve the situation.
6. **Special Guest Superintendent Jim Garwood:** Superintendent Garwood explained that he was at the meeting to hear from the parents.
 - a. **Lack of After School Programs:** The lack of afterschool programs was

shared as a parental concern. Garwood explained that the last teacher contract negotiation included removal of funding for teachers to run after school programming. The Park District was brought in to run the before and after school childcare, SPACE and after school programs. The Park District explanation is that it is difficult to find teachers at the lower rate than what the school had paid.

- b. **SPACE:** Parents expressed concern that SPACE did not facilitate enough outdoor time for the kids. There were also concerns about the difficulty for parents to successfully communicate with the SPACE leadership. Garwood will speak with the SPACE administration.
- c. **Food:** There was discussion about the significant number of high sugar, non-healthy items served in the school cafeteria for breakfast and lunch.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. **Craft Fair (Jenny Kane, Chair):** The Craft Fair exceeded its goal. There were 30 vendors and 80 attendees. The event raised \$1077 plus PayPal fees.
- b. **Membership (Wendy Gahm, Chair):** There are currently 110 members, with no new members this month. We are 20 members short of our goal, so need to use every opportunity to promote membership.
- c. **Spirit Wear (Karalee Robb, Chair):** Karalee handled 3 spiritwear returns. The vendor is fixing the issues. Parents are encouraged to look at the samples on display at conferences to get a sense of the sizes and materials before ordering.
- d. **Innisbrook (Priya Amin, Chair):** Innisbrook made \$1255 in profit.
- e. **Restaurant Night (Karen Lostaunau, Chair):** The November event at Father & Son Pizza raised \$187. The Dec. 15 event is at Blaze Pizza.
- f. **KidStuff Books (Carrie Butera, Chair):** Carrie sold 35 books which generated \$437.50 for the PTA.
- g. **Original Works (Wendy Gahm, Chair):** We received orders totaling \$1490. We will know our profit once we get the invoice. The items will arrive just before Winter Break. Wendy will need help distributing the items.
- h. **Cultural Arts (Wannapa Eubanks, Chair):** Wannapa secured a Brazilian drum assembly.
- i. **Box Tops (Diana Dizon, Chair):** The next contest will run November 30 through February 19. Ceci's Pizza is donating pizza for the winners. Parents are encouraged to trim the Box Tops to make submittal less time consuming for the organizer.
- j. **Board of Education (Michelle Harris, Chair):** Jen Ruffner attended the November D68 Board Meeting.
 - i. There was a public hearing regarding school holiday waivers (Columbus Day, MLK Birthday, Lincoln's Birthday, Pulaski Day, Veterans' Day). There was no comment from anyone, so it doesn't appear that any parents had any issues with having school on those days.
 - ii. The district is now 54.6% low income. The number of ELL families has

increased.

iii. Map Test show that kids who are in District 68 for more of their years in elementary/middle school have bigger growth. The PARCC and Map Data will be on the Illinois Report card online.

- k. **Family Dance (Trina Janes, Chair):** Bizar Entertainment will DJ the Family Dance on Dec. 4. A Volunteer Spot request was circulated. Volunteers are needed to be extra sets of eyes and ears on the dance floor.
- l. **Family Game Night (Jim Harris, Chair):** Jim will soon be seeking volunteers to assist with the January 27 event.
- m. **Silent Auction (Joe Ruffner, Chair):** So far 83 companies have donated goods valued at \$7000 for the Feb. 24 event. He sent out many letters and emails requesting donations. All parents are encouraged to seek donations.
- n. **International Night (Priya Amin & Michelle Harris, Co-Chairs):** This event will be held on April 7 and many volunteers are needed. A flyer will be sent out in January requesting performers.

8. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Bylaw Changes:** The Illinois PTA informed us that we need to have 2 signatories on all checks.

9. Upcoming Events: The following are key upcoming events.

- a. Family Dance: Dec. 4
- b. Restaurant Night: Dec. 15 at Blaze Pizza
- c. School Board Meeting: Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.
- d. No school: Dec. 21 to Jan. 1

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5 at 6:45 p.m.

11. Adjourn: The meeting was formally adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Trina Janes.