

Jane Stenson PTA Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday, January 9, 2017

Attendees: Stephanie Azen, Stephan Erdelyi, Wannapa Eubanks, Wendy Gahm, Stephanie Geissler, Bucky Hempen, Trina Janes, Kandace Luskin, Katie McNelley, Bonnie Ognisanti, Michael Ognisanti, Karalee Robb, Jennifer Ruffner, Joe Ruffner, Vanessa Schneider.

1. **Call to Order:** Jen Ruffner opened the meeting in the Stenson School library at 6:46 p.m.
2. **Special Presentation:** Jessica Hulten, Education Outreach Coordinator from the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, made a presentation about programs they offer. They lend free teaching trunks with age appropriate materials that are shipped at no charge to and from schools. They offer field trips at a cost of \$8 per student. February 15 is Student Leadership Day for 5th and 6th graders. Principals may submit up to 8 students along with a letter explaining why they were selected for this program. The deadline is January 25.
3. **Secretary's Report:** Trina Janes asked the members to review the minutes from the December 5, 2016 meeting. Wendy motioned for approval and Kandace seconded. The minutes were then adopted unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Vanessa Schneider presented the December Treasurer's report. Original Works made a profit of \$762.50 which exceeded its goal of \$520. The craft fair made a profit of \$1852.50 which exceeded its budget of \$1050. Money from spirit wear sales continues to come in. The restaurant night at Potbelly's raised \$297.50.
5. **President's Report:** Jen Ruffner gave her President's report:
 - a. **New Officers:** We need to select our officers for the upcoming school year. A nominating committee will be selected in March. Nominations are due in April. Elections occur in May. Please share ideas of people - yourself or others - who may be good candidates.
 - b. **Skokie Library:** The Skokie library presented to PTA presidents. They have many programs and resources for young kids.
 - c. **Fundraising Opportunity:** Red Robin restaurant has a fundraising program where they will donate 1% of your bill to the school of your choice. Registration can be done on the tableside tablets.
 - d. **Pizza Wars:** The annual Niles North pizza fundraiser is on Jan. 19.
 - e. **D68 School Board:** School board elections will occur in April. There are four candidates running for four vacancies. Joe Ruffner is a candidate.
6. **Principal's Report:** There was no report because Sue O'Neil was home sick.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. **Room Parents (Stephanie Azen, Chair):** There is a meeting on Jan. 11 at the Ruffners' home to discuss a Valentine's Day project that can then be sold at the silent auction.
- b. **PrePack (Jenny Kane, Chair):** Jenny is collecting school supply lists and getting an idea of the number of kindergarteners to prepare for the prepack sale.
- c. **Restaurant Night (Keval Amin, Chair):** The next event is January 18 at Portillo's. There was a discrepancy after the Dec. 22 Blaze Pizza fundraiser. They only counted 3 Stenson families. If you attended, please reach out to Jen so we can get credit for our spending.
- d. **Spirit Wear (Karalee Robb, Chair):** We raised \$350 by selling water bottles just before winter break. Most of the water bottles have been sold. If you have a defective bottle, let Karalee know.
- e. **Book Fair (Rondell Merrill, Chair):** The next book fair will occur during conferences on February 1 and 2. Many volunteers are needed.
- f. **Box Tops (Amy Van Aelst, Chair):** The next box tops contest deadline is Feb. 17. There will be a pizza party for the winning class. The fall contest raised \$343.10.
- g. **Board of Education (Bucky Hempfen, Chair):** Items discussed at the December board meeting include: the new report card, Niles Township Special Education Dept. and notification to parents of student absences. The 2017-18 school calendar is now posted online.
- h. **Craft Fair (Stephanie Geissler and Kandace Luskin):** Twenty five vendors responded to the post event survey. Half the respondents said they would like to come back next year. Many commended the helpful Stenson volunteers. The co-chairs would like to lock in a date ASAP so we can start promoting the event.
- i. **Family Game Night (Jim Harris, Chair):** The event will be on Jan. 26. Many volunteers are needed to help throughout the night. Jen will send out a Volunteer Spot notice. They are in need of items to give away as prizes. Let Jim know if you have items to donate.
- j. **Savers (Trina Janes, Chair):** Promotion has started to remind people to save the items they plan to donate on March 18. All profits over \$100 are given to the Stenson Angel Fund. We will make the reference to supporting the Angel Fund more prominent.
- k. **Silent Auction (Joe Ruffner, Chair):** They have now secured \$7,300 worth of items for the silent auction. People are encouraged to think creatively and reach out to vendors for donations.
- l. **5th Grade Party (Priya Amin, Chair):** The event will be on May 26 at Pinstripes.

8. **Upcoming Events:** The following are key upcoming events.
 - a. Silent Auction/Room Parent Meeting – Jan. 11
 - b. No school – Jan. 16
 - c. Restaurant Night – Jan. 18 at Portillo's
 - d. Board of Education Meeting – Jan. 19
 - e. Family Game Night – Jan. 26
 - f. Conferences and Book Fair – Feb 1 and 2
9. **Next Meeting:** The next PTA meeting will be held on February 6 at 6:45 p.m.
10. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. after Joe moved and Wannapa seconded a motion that was approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Trina Janes.