

APPROVED

Jane Stenson PTA Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017

Attendees: Priya Amin, Stephanie Azen, Deborah Beyenne, Wannapa Eubanks, Bucky Hempen, Trina Janes, Kandace Luskin, Katie McNelley, Rondell Merrill, Sue O'Neil, Jennifer Ruffner and Cyndi Stevens.

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 asked the members to review the minutes from the January 9, 2017 meeting. Priya motioned for approval and Stephanie seconded. The minutes were then adopted unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jen Ruffner read Vanessa Schneider's treasurer's report for January. Spirit Wear made a profit of \$454. Original Works made a profit of \$762. Family Game Night netted \$93.60. We received a check for \$37 from Amazon Smile. Rondell motioned to approve the report and Priya seconded the report and it was approved unanimously.
4. **President's Report:** Jen Ruffner gave her President's report:
 - a. **Skokie Cares:** Jen attended a meeting to kick off a new organization, Skokie Cares, aimed to make everyone feel welcome in Skokie. They will be doing more outreach activities in the coming months.
 - b. **Holocaust Museum:** Following a visit from their staff at the last month, Stenson selected 8 fifth grade students to attend an upcoming leadership day program at the museum.
 - c. **New Officers:** Please think about officers and roles for next year. We will form the nominating committee at the March meeting.
5. **Principal's Report:** Sue O'Neil gave the Principal's report.
 - a. **Outdoor Education:** The 5th graders went to outdoor education at Camp Timberlee last month. It was a great experience and many kids were camping for the first time.
 - b. **Kindergarten Registration:** Kindergarten registration is on February 8, so please share the information with new families.
 - c. **School Survey:** Forty percent of families completed the new survey. Please encourage others to take the survey. Only one person per household should take this survey.
 - d. **School Improvement Committee:** The parents on the committee provided good feedback.
 - e. **Maker Space Committee:** This committee is comprised of parents and students. It incorporates STEAM ideas. The committee will be doing site visits to other schools with existing spaces.
 - f. **Angel Fund:** Using funds raised, she was able to help several families purchase winter clothes, provide outdoor education scholarships and buy basic supplies.

- g. **Personnel News:** Mr. J is still recovering, but hopes to be back in March. Katie McNelley got engaged last week!
- h. **Diversity Committee:** This group will meet again. The goal is to write a code of ethics about embracing diversity.

6. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Room Parents (Stephanie Azen, Chair):** The class Valentine's Day parties will be used to make a painted canvass for each class to sell at the silent auction.
- b. **PrePack (Jenny Kane, Chair):** Jenny is working on the school supply lists for the 2017-18 school year.
- c. **Restaurant Night (Keval Amin, Chair):** The Blaze pizza event netted only \$37 because they did not properly track our sales. Portillo's made \$127.15. The next event is Chuck E. Cheese on February 23.
- d. **Spirit Wear (Karalee Robb, Chair):** There are still some water bottles for sale.
- e. **Book Fair (Rondell Merrill, Chair):** The book fair made \$124 which is among the highest book fair sales lately. Additionally, Stenson received \$31 in free books. Next year conferences will be a full day, so a different volunteer staffing will be needed.
- f. **Box Tops (Amy Van Aelst, Chair):** The next box tops contest deadline is Feb. 17.
- g. **Board of Education (Bucky Hempfen, Chair):** Items discussed at the January board meeting include: report on early childhood programs, the Superintendent's mid-year progress report, changes in the truancy policy and a long discussion on storage facilities.
- h. **Family Game Night (Jim Harris, Chair):** There were 30 families at dinner. Additional families attended the bingo portion of the night. We made a \$93.60 profit. Several ideas for next year: we should send the flyer out earlier and we should consider changing the pricing structure next year to make the event more affordable so we don't make any profit.
- i. **Savers (Trina Janes, Chair):** Promotion has started to remind people to save the items they plan to donate on March 18.
- j. **Silent Auction (Joe Ruffner, Chair):** They have now secured \$10,050 worth of items for the silent auction. The committee is seeking out food options. The movie shown will be Big Hero 6.
- k. **5th Grade Party (Priya Amin, Chair):** The deposit was sent for the May 26 event at Pinstripes.

7. **Upcoming Events:** The following are key upcoming events.

- a. Variety Show – Feb. 14
- b. Board of Education Meeting – Feb. 16
- c. Box Tops Deadline – Feb. 17
- d. No School – Feb. 20
- e. Kindergarten Orientation – Feb. 23
- f. Restaurant Night at Chuck E. Cheese Feb. 23

8. **Next Meeting:** The next PTA meeting will be held on March 7 at 6:45 p.m.
9. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. after Rondell moved and Priya seconded a motion that was approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Trina Janes.