

APPROVED

Jane Stenson PTA Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Attendees: Stephanie Azen, Wannapa Eubanks, Wendy Gahm, Dr. James Garwood, Stephanie Geissler, Michelle Harris, Bucky Hempen, Trina Janes, Katie McNelley, Rondell Merrill, Sue O'Neil, Karalee Robb, Jennifer Ruffner, Joe Ruffner, Vanessa Schneider and Cyndi Stevens.

1. **Call to Order:** Jen Ruffner opened the meeting in the Stenson School library at 6:48 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves.
2. **Secretary's Report:** Trina Janes asked the members to review the minutes from the February 6,, 2017 meeting. Wendy motioned for approval and Stephanie seconded. The minutes were then adopted unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Vanessa shared the February treasurer's report. We received a check from Blaze Pizza for \$34.25, received \$127.15 from Portillo's, sold \$20 in water bottles and had \$79.92 in silent auction related expenses for the class art projects. Restaurant night at Chuck E. Cheese brought in a record \$337. Michelle motioned to approve the report, Stephanie A. seconded the report and it was approved unanimously.
4. **President's Report:** Jen Ruffner gave her President's report:
 - a. **Committee Chairs:** Committee chairs are needed for the next school year. Let her know if you are interested.
 - b. **National PTA Statement:** She circulated a statement that the National PTA wrote about the President's address to Congress and his comments about school vouchers.
 - c. **Art Projects:** The Valentine's Day art projects for the silent auction turned out great. The paintings are all very cute and will be available for purchase at the silent auction.
 - d. **Kindergarten Orientation:** She attended the recent kindergarten orientation and hopes to reach out to the new parents.
5. **Superintendent Garwood Report:** Superintendent Garwood Shared updates and answered questions.
 - a. **School Board:** He shared that school board elections are coming up on April 4. The new board members will be sworn in on April 26.
 - b. **New Staff:** The district is adding reading and math specialists at each school.
 - c. **Record Storage:** The district is required to hold on to paper copies of student records for 60 years. The district is looking into finding new space to store them.
 - d. **After School Programs:** Since his last appearance at this meeting, the district has reintroduced afterschool programs. Parents were very appreciative of the many offerings now available to our students and expressed hope that they would continue and expand.

- e. **Standardized Testing:** The PARCC testing will begin April 10. The district is piloting a new language arts test, so even more class time will be spent on standardized test taking this year.
 - f. **Exterior Beautification:** Parents asked that some attention be given to Stenson's exterior appearance so it better reflects the colorful interior. The school grounds are nearly devoid of landscaping due heavily to the large roof overhang that prevents both sun and water from reaching the building perimeter. A PTA Beautification Committee was created thanks to a motion from Michelle and second from Wendy for a motion that passed unanimously.
6. **Principal's Report:** Sue O'Neil gave the Principal's report.
- a. **Mobile Dentist:** There were 50 students who saw the mobile dentist last week. Some saw a dentist for the first time ever.
 - b. **Cultural Arts Assembly:** Top Note Music will perform on March 23.
 - c. **Diversity Committee:** A morning and evening Diversity Committee met. They are planning a Diversity Day at Stenson in May. Ten faculty members went to the nearby mosque to learn and discuss partnerships.
 - d. **Maker Space Committee:** This committee went on site visits to see other schools' maker spaces to get ideas for Stenson.
7. **Committee Reports:**
- a. **PrePack (Jenny Kane, Chair):** Jenny sent the school supply lists for the 2017-18 school year to the kindergarten families.
 - b. **Restaurant Night (Keval Amin, Chair):** Stay tuned for the details with the location of the March 23 restaurant night.
 - c. **Box Tops (Amy Van Aelst, Chair):** The recently completed box tops contest raised just over \$100. This is much lower than expected. Ms. Clark's class won free pizza from Village Inn.
 - d. **Board of Education (Bucky Hempfen, Chair):** Items discussed at the February board meeting include: report on reformatting the ELL program, the new reading and math specialists and document storage.
 - e. **Digital Media (Carrie Butera, Chair):** She will have bills that are payable in September which include domain privacy, web hosting and t-shirts.
 - f. **Savers (Trina Janes, Chair):** Bring your items to donate to the Stenson parking lot on March 18 between 12 and 2. Funds raised support the Angel Fund.
 - g. **Silent Auction (Joe Ruffner, Chair):** They have now secured more than \$12,000 worth of items for the silent auction. The committee is seeking out food options. A list of some of the silent auction items can be viewed online. The teachers will work on securing the silent auction donations from the teachers.
 - h. **Teacher Appreciation (Michelle Harris, Chair):** Michelle needs volunteers to help with this week long appreciation in early May.
 - i. **New Fundraiser Development (Sev Elmayer, Chari):** Please send him ideas.

8. **New Business:**

- a. **Nominating Committee:** We created a nominating committee to select officers for next year. Wendy, Rondell and Stephanie Geissler were appointed with Michelle and Priya as alternates. Jen moved and Rondell seconded a motion to do a voice vote to create the committee. The motion passed unanimously and the committee was created. Rondell was selected as the chairman. The committee will present its slate of candidates at the April meeting. We will vote on them at the May meeting.

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

- a. Board of Education Meeting – March 16
- b. Savers – March 18
- c. Restaurant Night - March. 23
- d. Spring Break – March 24 to 31
- e. Online Silent Auction starts March 30
- f. Silent Auction – April 6
- g. Online Silent Auction Closes – April 13

10. **Next Meeting:** The next PTA meeting will be held on April 4 at 6:45 p.m.

11. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. after Wendy moved and Rondell seconded a motion that was approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Trina Janes.