

Jane Stenson PTA Minutes

January 6, 2014 (meeting was rescheduled to 1/13/14 due to school closings/weather)

Present: Kim Savini, Pia Yfantis, Katie McNelley, Sue O'Neil, Debra Hatchett, Wendy Gahm, Steph Welt, Eva Rafas, Jena Martino, Carrie Butera, Wannapa P-Eubanks, Pazit Burstin, Angela Bojinov, Jason Malina, Michelle Harris, LaCeysha Cowans

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by president Kim Savini.

The minutes from the December 2013 meeting were read. The minutes stand approved as read. Motion to approve was made by Ava and seconded by Michele. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Pia reported that membership was steady at 130 members. Our portion of the PTA dues has been paid in full to the Illinois PTA. There are funds yet to be collected for the sale of the Bakers Square Pie cards, so the total sold is yet to be determined.

President's Report: Kim welcomed everyone back from winter break and thanked everyone for attending the rescheduled meeting.

- She has received many responses to her email request for volunteer Committee Chairs for the 2014-2015 school year. There are still some Committee Chair openings left to fill and interested persons should email her. Our goal is to split up the duties and limit the 1 per chair position to give other PTA members opportunities to become involved.
- She created laminated signs for use at PTA events to direct families to enter the gym (when the front door of the building is not being used). The signs will be stored in the PTA closet. She also created a map of the interior of the building for help in guiding parents to appropriate classrooms during parent/teacher conferences.
- She announced that the Board of Ed made their decision on the hire of a new Superintendent and will announce their selection at their next District meeting during a welcome reception in the coming months (date TBA).
- Over winter break, she and Debra received and set up the "Square" card credit card reader for swiping credit card information for the Ways & Means Committee Fundraising activities. The swiper has been tested and is working. Kim, Debra and Pia will have authorized access on their cell phones to use the swiper for credit card purchases.
- Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Feb. 5 and 6, 2014. We will need volunteers to staff the PTA table to assist families and sell PTA merchandise (i.e. Kidstuff Books and T-Shirts).
- Stenson School has approved the use of the copy machine for PTA functions, but asks that we provide our own paper.

Committee Reports:

- **Bookfair:** LaCeysha needs volunteers to help with the Book Fair on Feb 5 & 6 during parent/teacher conferences. Usborne will be handling the sales so the volunteers will be needed to keep the tables organized and neat. Once sales income has been reported, we can decide which company to retain for the book fair (Usborne or Scholastic) based on the sales revenue.
- **Box Tops:** Kim/Joanne reported they received the fall 2013 check for \$521.05, (more than we anticipated due to "e-boxtops" - a welcome surprise)
- **Family Game Night:** Jason – will be held on Feb. 13, 2014 from 6 – 8 pm. He needs volunteers to distribute pizzas, cookies & water and to direct traffic flow. Pizza choices will be sausage, pepperoni and cheese. \$10 includes pizza, 4 waters & 4 cookies. Jason will create a flyer and email announcement for the e-blast for families to sign up for food. He reminded us that purchasing food is not a requirement to participate in the games. He is looking for donations for prizes (plushes, games, gently used books, etc.) to distribute to game winners.

Jane Stenson PTA Minutes

- **International Night:** - Deb/Kim reported that the program was being restructured. The plan is to move the event offsite to Gorilla Tango Theatre in downtown Skokie which offers professional theatre seating, a stage, lighting, piano, microphone/stand, sound system, theatre projector and screen, backstage dressing room and bathroom for performers, along with lobby space for food tables. The cost of renting the theatre is \$200 (discounted for the PTA non-profit from the standard \$700). Ballet Folklorico, a professional Mexican dancing group, has been contracted for \$500 to perform (funds for this were covered in full by the Skokie Fine Arts Commission grant.) The remaining performance acts are yet to be determined and a request for food donations will be made to local ethnic restaurants in the Skokie area. Food served during the event will be restricted to the donations from the restaurants – no home-made food from families due to allergies and liability. Recipes from Stenson families will be collected for the Stenson Family Cookbook. Details regarding the printing of the cookbook are still being researched. Stenson students will be asked to create a flag of their country's origin for photographing and projecting on the theatre screens behind the performances. A new date for the event will be announced shortly.
- **Market Days:** LaCeysha reported \$154.51 was collected during November and \$76.56 for December totaling \$419.67 (divided by the two schools leaves \$209.83 per school). She has a survey that will be sent to the student's classroom to be sent home in the backpacks. The next Market Day is set for Jan. 30, 2014 at 4:30 pm. (She needs the survey forms returned to her before that date.) Market Days is offering \$5 off for new customers. She reminded everyone that GFC and PeaPod participate in Market Days. Orders can also be placed online at www.marketday.com.
- **Restaurant Night:** - Kim received an email from Karen L. letting us know that she will be unable to attend future PTA meetings due to a work conflict. However, she will continue to coordinate Restaurant Nights and will provide emailed reports to the PTA. The next restaurant night is tentatively scheduled for Thurs. Feb. 27, 2014 at Potbelly's Sandwich Shop in the Old Orchard Mall. They will donate 25% of ALL sales that evening (not just Stenson families, but all sales). She is waiting for final confirmation on the hours from Potbelly and will report more then.
- **School store:** The PTA has science boards available and students can purchase them for \$4 each. They are being held in the school office (not the school store) for the upcoming Science Fair.
- **Spiritware:** Kim is going to inquire about having another printing and will report back soon.
- **Board of Ed:** Michelle said there was nothing new to report regarding the Board of Ed.
- **Ways & Means:** Debra announced that we will be selling the remaining Kidstuff Books, along with t-shirts – during the Parent/Teacher conferences. Kim reported that preliminary estimates are that we profited only \$39 for selling 26 Bakers Square Pie cards and recommends that we find an alternative fundraising item with a better income ratio for next year.
- **Silent Auction:** Debra reported that 200 letters and 200 emails were sent out with a donation request date of March 28, 2014. This date was selected to give the PTA enough time to gather the donations and prepare them for website and the paperwork for the silent auction. The date for the Silent Auction is yet to be determined (aiming for first week of May 2014) depending on the schedule of Mike Byer (Brainetics) who has been invited to present his mathematics program.
- **Goodsearch:** Debra reported that an eblast went out instructing families how to register on www.goodsearch.com The PTA receives \$.01 for every search on their search engine and also makes donations if a person purchases items from registered retailers through their search engine. The pennies can add up quickly when you are searching on the internet on a regular basis.

Principal's Report:

- Mrs. O'Neil reported that the signage for banning weapons has been posted at the front door of the school per state law.

Jane Stenson PTA Minutes

- Participating 5th grade students are prepared to travel to East Troy, WI on Jan. 8, 2014 for 2 nights and 3 days for the school's Outdoor Education program. They are asked to bring snow pants and boots and are planning for winter activities such as tobogganing, zip lining, and tubing. The program was moved to the winter season to accommodate better housing for the students and keep them together in one place. The program does not allow cell phones or electronic devices, and there are no parent chaperones (only teacher chaperones). Families pay \$79 per student and the district covers the remaining \$79.
- Stenson is involved with the Skokie Public Library's "Usership" program where students are encouraged to use the library and its services. The bookmobile has added an additional stop at Bronx and Grove Streets. We are partnering with the library to offer students who are 4 and 5 years old (and not yet in school) to attend 45 minutes of early literacy in our library. Parents must stay with the student. This is not a drop off program.
- She reminded everyone that the 4th grade concert will be held on Jan. 16 at 7pm.
- She reported that Stenson has been chosen for the PARCC assessment which is a pilot program involving the Common Core Standards. The assessment will involve two 5th grade classes selected by the State of Illinois (as yet undetermined) and will be divided into 3 sessions of 1.5 hours each. The assessment will be held sometime the week after spring break.
- She reminded everyone that the school Science Fair is Jan. 22 at 6:30 pm and that the students were very excited to show off their science projects.
- She announced that over summer break the school will undergo a new construction project involving the front entrance. A second set of locking doors and a guard type window will be installed for better security.
- Stenson will be the host for NTDSE's 6 week summer school program this summer. The program involves 27 buses and means the Skokie Park District's previously scheduled programs at our school will be relocated. Families should check with the Park District to confirm the location of their programs.

Unfinished business or new business

A question regarding accessibility and snow shoveling along the sidewalks around the school was mentioned. Mrs. O'Neil thanked us for letting her know about this and reported that the head custodian had been out due to surgery. She would look into correcting the situation.

A parent asked if MAP testing was being held this week for the 3rd grade and asked if parents could be informed of testing dates. Mrs. O'Neil reported that the testing dates were on the school calendar.

Upcoming events

- 4th Grade Music Concert: January 16 at 7:00 pm
- No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20.
- Board of Education: January 21 at 7:30 pm
- Science Fair: January 22 at 6:30 pm
- Elementary Band Concert: January 27 & Orchestra Concert: January 29 at 7:00 pm at OOHJH
- Choral Festival: January 28 at 7:00 at NNHS
- Market Day Pick Up: January 30 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- NEXT PTA Meeting February 3, 7:00pm, teacher's lounge.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.