

Birchwood PTO Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
6:30PM
Birchwood Conference Room

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Members Present: Anne Burger(Recording secretary and parent); Jan Brown (co president and parent); JoMarie Ethier (Co President and parent); Debra Berndt (Principal); Suzanne Brooksby (VP Programs and Services and Parent); Jill Appert (VP Fundraising and Parent);Erin Cassady-Dorion (Parent); Kathleen Vermilyea (teacher and liaison); Amy Santandrea (teacher and liaison; Mike Cooper (parent, Nature park); Nancy Cook (former parent); Joe Cook (former parent); Tim Cook (former student and Eagle Scout)

Call to Order:

By JoMarie Ethier at 6:35PM

Approval of FebruaryMinutes:

Motion to approve . Mike Cooper made the motion, Erin Cassady-Dorion seconded. Motion passed.

Co-President's Report (JoMarie Ethier, Jan Brown):

- PTO Council had their meeting on Monday. The PTO's lost their tax exempt status as of the IRS Audit. The PTO councils was reinstated but not individual PTO's. The subsidiaries are trying to get them reinstated. It would cost \$3000 for all the subsidiaries. They are looking to see if Tonko's office could reapply and have it be retroactive.
- Council did approve to pay the \$3000
- Superintendent talked about the future of buzzable and edirectories. Power School has an electronic registry where information can be inputted and will update through the years. The electronic module could then be printed for a directory. That wouldn't start until 2017-2018 school year.
- BOE candidates can attend PTO meetings but will not speak about their candidacy.
- John Leto and Al Garrison brought the refrigerator over to the staff lounge.

Officer Reports

VP Programs and Services (Suzanne Brooksby):

-Staff luncheon is next Thursday and it will be an Italian Theme luncheon. Felthousen's and Hewitt's are doing donations for the centerpieces. Suzanne still needs some help with the luncheon.

March 11 is the Fun Fair. It is a 50's theme sock hop. 5th graders are being asked to help in 20 minute blocks of time.

VP Fundraising (Jill Appert):

-Photography fund raiser- 5/13 & 5/20 rain date. Sitting fee is \$50 which the school gets along with a small percentage of sales.

-Blaze Pizza fundraiser on Fri 4/1. Working on Smashburger, Panera's, Sweet Frog & Chipolte.

-A brochure fundraiser packet will be going home soon.

Treasurer (Brenda Leto):

Look into getting standard Thank you notes. Hannaford gave us \$125 of unclaimed soda cans and should send a thank you. Jill will get stationary note cards for the PTO. Approval of report: Mike C made the motion and Suzanne seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary (Anne Burger):

The PTO minutes are now on the website.

Principal's Report (Deb Berndt):

-Kindergarten screening will be 5/9 and 5/10 all day and afternoon of 5/11. Would like some light refreshments for the parents. Will see if preschool story hour has any left over funds.

-PLC work will be on 3/9 and 3/23. Working with PALS program and teachers. There is a district level committee with 4 teachers from each school. See about how to implement the Intervention Blocks. If there's a fork in the road--go to our values and then err on side of values.

Teachers' Liaison Report (Amy Santandrea, Kathleen Vermilyea):

Mrs. Santandrea: 5th grade did their states fair, 4th grade is doing their dress up biographies, Colonial life Centers (3/18) and Measures for Measuring (3/23). 3rd grade continues with their country study. Food feast is in couple of weeks for Mexico.

Mrs. Vermilyea: Kindergarten had their 100th day of school celebration. 1st grade is working on non fiction-studying about Penguins and 2nd grade is doing non fiction reports and biographies.

Board of Education Report (Kevin Laurilliard): No report.

PTO to Board of Ed Liaison's Report (Anne Burger): No report, did attend a couple of meetings. Several divisions did presentations. Will start budget talks within a few weeks.

Mike Cooper(Nature Club): The on line registration is started. Story walk was today for K-2 with 15 children. It was "Grandpa's Sugar Bush". On line registration went great. Katie could use some help. Next story walk is for Earth day . Would like to do a Butterfly garden.

Tim Cook (Eagle Scout): brought final drawings and budget. Will be doing it during April break. Much of the building will be done at home with assembly that week.

Need to look for PTO treasurer and president for next year.

Concluding Comments

Adjournment: Mike Cooper motioned to adjourn. Suzanne Brooksby seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM. Submitted by Anne Burger

Next Meeting Wednesday April 13, 2016 at 6:30PM

Committee Reports:

1. Vice President for Program and Events (Suzanne Brooksby)

For the Staff Appreciation luncheon- we're looking good. Invites have been sent out. We've got some sign ups to help and bring desserts. We've got potted flowers donated by Hewitts for center pieces and carnations donated by Felthousens that each staff will get. Perecca's Bakery has donated some Italian bread and Erin Cassady-Dorin has donated some Pure Mountain oil for dipping. I'm hoping to have the rest of the meal firmed up by tomorrow- I've got some feelers out. It's coming together nicely

2. Nature Club (Mike Cooper)

Nature Park

Our first use of online only registration was a success! *

March 2 After School Program Report *

Update from Tim Cook on proposed Outdoor Classroom Improvements *

Possible Earth Day Program: Miss Rumphius Story Walk (borrowed from Pine Bush)

Also reaching out to Pine Bush for possible spring after school program

Garden

Seeds and Plants are ordered for the 2016 Garden Season!

Spring Garden: Strawberry harvest (for Ice Cream Social?), peas, lettuce, asparagus

Summer Garden: Carrots, Watermelon (for Back to School Barbecue?), asparagus & strawberry maintenance

Butterfly Garden Improvements with 3rd Grade (to coincide with their butterfly study)

Bullet items marked with a * indicate items that we'd like to discuss briefly during the meeting.

3. Media/ Junior Achievement (Laura Mirković)

Junior achievement- running smoothly

Media- nothing new to report

Visiting author- working with Kate to start ordering books.

4. Yearbook (Millie Gnatak)

Yearbook Report:

1st part of yearbook (28 pages) is almost complete.

Have sold approximately 90 yearbooks and have received emails for approximately 15 ads.

5. Fun Fair (Tara McKenna)

We are moving along. We have planned for fifties style sock hop, 6:30-8.

We will have games as usual but changing them up a bit by adding twister, hula hoop, hopscotch etc.

We will also have a DJ (Evan Brooksby) playing fifties music and we will try to get the kids excited

about doing dances from the 50's and have face painters as well! We have arranged for a ventriloquist who will perform for 30 mins. Instead of food/potluck we will have a soda shoppe with root beer floats and orange creme sodas as well as popcorn and other snacks.

The admission is free, but there is a charge for tickets.

We will also have the staff raffle again this year. Anne Burger is heading this up.

The schedule will be:

6:30-7:15- games, face painting, DJ in the gym

6:45-7:30- soda shoppe open

7:15-7:45 ventriloquist

7:45-8 Staff Raffle