

Poplar Tree Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Elizabeth Zielinski.

Attendees: Mary Yee, Elizabeth Zielinski, Sandy Jones, Jennifer Alvarez, Allison Denenberg, Stacy McMahon, Hallie Dillon, Carolyn York, Cindy Roberts, Kimberly Powers, Charlotte Matthews

The October 9, 2012 minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report

Elizabeth Zielinski thanked Carolyn York for organizing the seminar "Celebrate Calm". The FCPS website has information on how to obtain a copy of the CD. The Fall Fundraiser fell short of the goal of \$15,000. However, another \$2,600 was collected after the last memo was sent home to Poplar Tree families, bringing our total up to about \$10,400. We do not have the Family Fun Night numbers yet. Jen Brunner and Lori Barnes will not be running FFN after this year. Please let them know if you are interested in taking over this popular and fun event for next year. The Math Resource Teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Schneiders, will be training a team of parent volunteers to tutor students one on one on December 4th at 8:30AM in the Math Resource Room on the second floor. Information will be sent out to parents via room captains as to which days and times are available to sign up to either assist children remedially or enrich their math skills.

Treasurer's Report

Please see attached report.

Committee Reports

Special Education – Cindy Roberts reported that this year Poplar Tree will participate in Inclusive Schools Week from December 3 – 7. Announcements will be made on the Morning News about what to expect during this week. Information will be shared with all students about aspects of inclusion. Moving forward, there will be a link between Inclusion and Anti-Bullying Awareness. A note will be sent home to parents via Friday Folders to begin awareness of this program.

Staff Appreciation – Charlotte Matthews reported that the annual Holiday Cookie Exchange will be held on December 21, 2012 and sponsored by the K – 3 families from 10:30AM – 1pm in the Language Arts room. Please deliver donations that morning to the front office by 9:30AM!

Mini Grants - Sandy Jones reported that all five requests, totaling \$1,700 were granted! The speech teachers requested an online subscription, Mr. Watts requested art shelves, the 1st and 2nd grade teams requested an MP3 player and the 4th grade team requested payment for Colonial Camp. There was a motion to approve payment of the grants. The motion was approved. (There was a budget to fund \$3,300 of mini-grants. The unspent money will be re-evaluated in April, and perhaps re-assigned.)

New Business:

Spotlight on Learning: New Math Online Textbook and Resources –

The EnVision Math textbook (www.pearsonsuccessnet.com) features were reviewed in depth with those PTA members at the meeting. Access to these books for 5th and 6th graders can be gained through the use of the class access code. Parents were assured that if a hard copy of the book is preferred, one can be obtained by asking the child's teacher for a copy. It will be signed out to the child for use during the school year and then returned for use the following year. Features of the online textbook which might be helpful for parents assisting their children with the math concepts covered in the book are: 1) worksheets that are available to print out by clicking on "lesson" and 2) encouraging your child to take the test at the end of each chapter. Also a key feature of the online texts is the "explore" section. It is in video format and parents can encourage their children to use this feature to go ahead of what is being taught in class, if necessary.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 10 am in the Room 117. There will be repairs being made to the library, hence the move to a classroom setting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Yee