

Poplar Tree Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2012

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am by Elizabeth Zielinski.

Attendees: Mary Yee, Elizabeth Zielinski, Jennifer Alvarez, Arian Hadley, Adrienne Nicholson, Bonita Rogers, Sharon Williams, Carolyn York, Heather Zwicker, Jen Onder, Judy Popham, Allison Denenberg, Sandy Jones, Chelese McClain, Natasha Raimist

The November 13, 2012 minutes were approved as submitted.

Principal's Report

- Mrs. Williams reported that the visit from Santa was a big hit! She was proud of our school families and their donations for Our Neighbor's Child and Hurricane Sandy victims.
- Thank you to Cindy Roberts for elevating awareness for inclusion week. The stickers, news show and message board announcements were very positive.
- Construction in the library due to the damage from the hurricane will be complete by mid-December.
- Cluster 7 principals met at PTES to discuss desirable attributes for the new superintendent. She encourages attendance at the county-wide meetings for all parents. What personality traits would you like?

President's Report

- Elizabeth Zielinski reported that continental breakfast has been provided by First Watch this morning. It is a new restaurant that has opened in Greenbrier Shopping Center. Coupons have been placed on the table to encourage future visits to their establishment.
- Arian Hadley has completed the new directories! They will be sent home to all PTA members.
- Chelese McClain thanks all participants in the new math and GEMS programs. Volunteers in these programs have been invaluable. Laurie Senio is already stepping forward to chair the GEMS program next year in Chelese's place.

Treasurer's Report

- Currently, we have approximately \$28,000 in the bank. Fakespeare and Adventure Tuesday fees are collected by the PTA and then signed over to Rob Thompson. This is not a money maker for the PTA, but is reported due to the processing of the fees in and out of the PTA bank account. Please see attached report.

Committee Reports

- **Mini Grants** - Sandy Jones reported that a request was made for mini-grant funds after the designated window had closed. Since the total amount of funding allotted to mini-grants was not used, and the request was small (\$167.69), the request would be granted.

Math Curriculum Liaison Committee

- **Guest Speaker** Jen Onder, Math Resource Specialist, spoke to everyone at the meeting. Parents were thanked for their support of her committee, which is charged with the purpose of enriching math skills of identified students or assisting identified students remedially in this area. Volunteer parents come during WIN time on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- March 14, 2013 will be known as "Pi Day". April is Math month. The Math Magician will come do a presentation to all grades on April 9, 2013. There will also be an evening math event around the school. Not all teachers will participate, but is meant to encourage a love of math.
- This year, we will have a Challenge 24 Tournament at Poplar Tree. The children must use all the math functions to arrive at a total of 24 in a matrix. Only grades 3 – 6 will participate in this challenge. It will be held in April.
- A Mathlete Contest will be open to any 4 – 6th grader who wishes to participate. It is held across the country. There are 35 multiple choice questions. This will occur on February 19 or 26. The top 6 students from each county will be identified. Each grade may practice for this test. The books cost \$120 for all students. There is a fee of \$9.95 for each grade level to practice the tests online. The students are given thirty minutes to complete the test. All Poplar Tree students will get a prize for participation. The awards will cost \$100, which has already been budgeted. However, an additional \$70 is needed for the parents and teachers to gain access to online math resources. A motion was made to approve the request for additional funds. The motion was passed.

New Business

Carolyn York reported that Carnival planning is going well. There is still a need to recruit and organize youth volunteers, who will need service hours. Students from Chantilly High, Westfields High and Rocky Run Middle Schools are encouraged to sign up.

Sandy Jones reported that the Run/Walk Club is on hiatus. It will start up again in March.

The next PTA meeting will be held on January 15, 2013 in the cafeteria at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Yee
Secretary

