

Poplar Tree Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2013

Meeting called to order at 10:03 am by Elizabeth Zielinski.

Attendees: Mary Yee, Elizabeth Zielinski, Carolyn York, Christine Risi, Allison Denenberg, Sharon Williams, Kimberly Powers, Hallie Dillon, Jennifer Alvarez and Kristen Shiveley

The January 15, 2013 minutes were approved as submitted.

Principal's Report

- Mrs. Williams introduced Mrs. Arnberg, our SCA sponsor. Mrs. Arnberg allowed each SCA officer to introduce themselves and tell what their focus has been so far. Lila York, Treasurer, stated she had received \$1500 to date for the Pennies for Patients program. Nels Williams, Secretary, stated he had introduced several Spirit Days for the students. Lexie Rickard, Historian, declared she had been diligently attending school functions and taking photos of the events. Mary Kominski, Vice President, stated she had attended most of the SCA fundraisers and so far, \$800 had been raised. Anthony Imperial, President, indicated that a possible use for the funds that had been earned would be new picnic tables. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Zielinski thanked the SCA Board for attending the meeting and dismissed them back to class.
- Mrs. Williams gave an instructional update. There is an after school WIN program, which will occur from March 9th through May 9th. It will be held on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons for those students who failed the 2012 Math SOL. Twelve students at each grade level, 3 – 6, who fall into this category, will be invited to participate. The teachers who will be teaching the students are: Mrs. Velasquez, Mr. Penley, Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Monterrosa. The teachers will be using the program “Do the Math”. The \$12,500 required to fund this program will be covered by the Cluster 7 office.
- The Spelling Bee will be held on February 15th at 2:30pm in the cafeteria. The reception for all classroom winners of the Bee will be held on February 22nd at 2:30pm in the Language Arts room.
- Heritage Week will begin on February 25th. Each grade level chooses a country to study. There will be a school-wide assembly on February 27th to share with the school what has been learned about each country.
- Read Across America is continuing! When the goal of 5,000 books is reached by the students, a special assembly will be called and Mrs. Williams will kiss a pig!
- Mr. King has been nominated again for “support employee of the year” in the county. Three years ago, he was a finalist! Support letters will be sent by Mrs. Gomez on his behalf.
- Mrs. Dillon remarked that there is one note on SOL specifics she wanted to pass along. Math SOLs are typically taken for grades 3 – 5 all day. They occur in two sessions.

However, those students in 5th grade taking advanced math will be following the 6th grade Math SOL protocol, which is to only take the SOL in one session. SOL pass reminders will be sent via email and will be posted on the website. To alleviate the students' nerves, test conditions are re-created in the eCart sessions.

President's Report

- Elizabeth Zielinski reported that student population at Poplar Tree is declining. It is predicted to decline to 450 students within five years. Solutions are beginning to be generated. Kathy Smith, our School Board rep, will be meeting with interested staff and parents at a date in March or April which is TBD at this time.
- Please remember to ask Poplar Tree parents to "friend" the Poplar Tree facebook page. Updates will be posted there about upcoming meetings and school happenings.
- Ed Lang Realtors has approached Elizabeth Zielinski with a potential business partnership. She and the Board are evaluating his proposal. It could be a lucrative, but non-exclusive arrangement for Poplar Tree.

Treasurer's Report

- Currently, we have approximately \$24,000 in the bank. We have not paid the school for the Math Resource teacher yet. And, Carnival is coming up. A note will be sent out regarding the teacher fund.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – Jennifer Alvarez reported that the committee is meeting on Wednesday. Announcements will be made in March meeting about new Board members in the newsletter. The nominees will be voted on at the April meeting.

Carnival – Carolyn York reported that the food at this year's Carnival will be pizza from Domino's and Nathan's hot dogs. Sheila Poggi is managing the prizes for the various booths. She could still use some help. T-shirt/spirit pack order forms went home on Friday. The Thursday prior to Carnival, a Beachcomber's Table will be set up in the cafeteria. Please send your children to school that day with \$5 to purchase items to be worn or used at the Carnival. Shopping at the Table will be open from 8:20 – 8:50 AM. No tardy slips will be issued until 8:55AM that day. Carolyn still needs stuffed animals to supply the Animal Walk. Donations should be dropped off to Jen Brunner's house. Volunteers can come help set up the night before. Two news items: 1- the facility fee was lower than anticipated and 2- no new red staff shirts are needed. New Chairs for this event WILL be needed for next year.

New Business

There was no new business.

The next PTA meeting will be held on March 12, 2013 in the LA Room at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Yee
Secretary