

PTA Meeting August 20, 2014

Called to order: 10:00am

In attendance: Wanda Radler, Susan Lowry, Carolyn York, Carolyn Caywood, Holly Walker, Jennifer Davis, Sharon Williams, Kelly Steinbach, Pamela Gomez, Christine Risi, Karen Dunham, John Koch, Leslie Bartnik, Rosette Farello and Dorothy Ready

Review meeting minutes from May 13, 2014

*Minutes approved as written

President's report, Wanda Radler:

- PTA will offer free membership to all Poplar Tree teachers and instructional assistants for 2014-2015.
- High priority PTA committees in need of volunteers to chair include the PTA membership (Jennifer has volunteered), Reflections Contest, Odyssey of the Mind. (Poplar Tree ES website shows all the open positions under the Parents tab, then the PTA tab, and then Contacts.), and the Fall Festival.
- Audit completed by Wanda Radler, Allison Denenberg, and Tasha Virostek.
- Katie Booker and Courtney Wenholt head Staff Appreciation committee. Staff Welcome Back Breakfast on Monday, August 25.
- Kindergarten picnic with PTA supplied popsicles and watermelon on Friday, August 22nd.
- Open House on Thursday, Aug28th. PTA will be represented with Membership tables, Spirit wear, popcorn, and popsicles.
- PTA General Membership meeting on September 10th moved to **September 11th** due to conflict with RRMS.

Treasurer's Report, Carolyn Caywood

- Financial record will be posted online
- PTA ending balance \$50,954.88

Principal's Report:

- Summer construction at Poplar Tree ES included replacement of all outside lighting, new carpeting in the main office, 2 new playgrounds. New playgrounds will be ready in the Fall.
- As of August 20th, Poplar Tree has 556 students enrolled. Kindergarten enrollees are at 49 students, grades 1-6 have 441 students, special education enrollees at 66 students.
- Local IV AAP at Poplar Tree will begin its first year at PT with Mrs. Gomez teaching the class. The option to attend the AAP center school at GBW was not taken away but may be in the future. There is a strong probability that Poplar Tree will become an AAP center school in the future. It is being discussed on the county level this fiscal year.
- "Teach, Engage, Inspire Each One!" is the PT motto for this school year
- Dr. Garza's message this year is "FCPS Cares" and "Portrait of a Graduate."
- The 6th grade show will continue as planned for this school year.

New Business:

Pamela Gomez:

Social Media Presence - Concern was raised about negative comments being posted about Poplar Tree ES on the social media website, Greatschools.org. Changes suggested to bring about more positive comments and support to PT ES include posting school related activities in the local papers, raising community awareness, and promote school awards in the media.

Food Bank Idea - GBW has a partnership with Western Christian Ministry where unopened lunch items such as fruit, yogurt, milk, and PBJ can be collected and placed into the fridge located at the school and donated to the organization.

Christina Arnberg has agreed to support this cause at PT with her SCA students, although PTA volunteers are needed to oversee the logistics of the program and procure a refrigerator. Students will be made aware to eat their lunch, not waste their food and not purchase additional food to place in the fridge. Wanda Radler stated the PTA budget could support buying a refrigerator for this effort.

Newsletter - It was suggested that the Principal's monthly Paw Print Newsletter was not reaching everyone last year as parents were used to the paper hard copies of the past. Mrs. Williams will make hard copies this year.

Directory Ideas – Ideas were discussed about how to get directory information. One idea was to update the PTA membership form to include a signature portion to allow personal information, such as e-mail, and phone numbers to be included in the school directory. It was also discussed about having a separate form for Directory information and inclusion. The membership chair will look into these and make a recommendation.

Meeting Adjourned 10:55am

Minutes submitted by Susan Lowry