

Poplar Tree Elementary

PTA Meeting Minutes January 13, 2016

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Williams, Holly Walker, Chris Ferragamo, Carolyn Caywood, Heather Ellison, Kara Balzano, Sheree Bracco, Wanda Radler, Heather Phillips,

CALLED TO ORDER

Called to order: 7:06

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review meeting minutes from November 12, 2015. Minutes were approved with one modification.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Winter Break reading incentive was a success. The “snowball fight” between students and administration was fun for all. Chantilly Pyramid will be holding another reading incentive this year, details to follow.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Caesar's English, a vocabulary program using root words (Latin) has been introduced to the AAP classes. May bring down to other grades throughout school. This type of Structured Word Inquiry would benefit all students.
- Hands-on learning in Social Studies made for a successful 3rd Grade Egypt Museum and 4th grade Colonial Day.
- Staff sends a message of 'thank you' to Staff Appreciation Committee and volunteers for the annual holiday cookie exchange.
- Safety Drills – both lockdowns for year complete
- Outdoor Recess – FCPS has very specific guidelines using windchill temperatures to mandate when students are not allowed outdoors for recess. Additionally, school administrators make outdoor safety decisions throughout the day based on local conditions. The intention is to allow for outdoor recess when possible/reasonable. Parents should ensure that their children are dressed appropriately for the weather so that they can go outside as allowed.
- Building Temperatures - Temperatures throughout the building have been very inconsistent. County maintenance is addressing.
- ECart Testing – Grades 3-6, will have reading and math tests January 25-February 4. These are County assessments, serve as SOL practice, and help teachers get a sense of where additional instruction is needed.

- Many Cultures, One School – Heritage week is February 16th-19th. Instead of one heritage night, this will be a week long look at different cultures. Cultural arts assembly from PTA will be on the Friday.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Chipotle spirit night made nearly \$900.
- Box Tops – The most recently completed contest awarded the class with the highest average per student. Winning class was Mr. Gaydos; won \$50 gift card for game pack. Runner up was Mrs. Francis. The contest raised \$740. The next contest will end on February 26th and will award by total number of box tops per class.
- Outstanding Teacher of the Year - Michelle Griffiths was nominated. Liz Zeilinski completed submission packet, including supporting letter from Chris Ferragamo on behalf of the PTA.
- Outstanding Principal of the year – Mrs. Williams was nominated. Holly Walker and staff completed submission.
- Outstanding Support Staff - Mrs. Wilkinson was nominated. Mr. Ferragamo would like input for support letter from PTA Board.
- Other Fundraisers - Harris Teeter – we've raised \$76.28 from grocery receipts from Aug – Nov.
- Winter after school activities underway – Lego club was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.
- Executive Committee – suggested Nominating Committee members. Required to have one member of Executive Committee and two from general membership. Proposed to serve as the Nominating Committee are Heather Phillips with Patti Powers and Adrienne Nicholson.
 - o VOTE by Executive Committee: Motion made to approve Heather Phillips, Patti Powers, and Adrienne Nicholson as the Nominating Committee. Motion seconded. Vote held, Nominating Committee approved.
- The Nominating Committee will report list of nominees to PTA at March meeting. Mr. Ferragamo will announce PTA Board openings in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance: \$41,117.64 (includes additional no-fuss income)

Officially in good standing with state.

NEW BUSINESS

- Children's Science Center - The school won an on-site program from the Children's Science Center. The Center will bring their mobile lab with 12 activities to Poplar Tree. There is a cost of \$500 for supplies. We are also required to provide 15-30 volunteers. The mobile lab and volunteers will be here from 5:00-8:30; students will be here from 6:00-8:00. This is a school-wide event, open to all grades, though the number of participants is limited. The school is asking the PTA for \$500 to cover the cost of supplies. This amount requires a general membership vote. Quorum not reached at this meeting. Mr. Ferragamo will send vote via email.

- Spring Fling – We need a chair. The dates under discussion are May 7th or 14th from 1-4. This was not included in the original budget for the year, but we raised enough money during the No-Fuss Fundraiser this Fall; the Spring Fling was one of the incentives.

UPDATE SINCE LAST MEETING:

- SCA will not be funding the 6th Grade gift. The families of the 6th grade class will be responsible.
- Sixth Grade will have a field trip to Hemlock in April. The date is still to be determined.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- January 20th – Spirit Night at Chick Fil A – cow will be here at dismissal (percentage smaller). Drive through or walk-in counts.
- January 29th – Talent Show 6:00-8:30 (50+ acts), SCA not selling refreshments. PTA will sell candy and bottled water.
- February 26th – next movie night, may have kids vote on movie selection
- Next meeting – February 10th – 10am

Adjourned: 8:01pm