

PGES PTA Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2023

Location: PGE School Library and Google Meet

Attendees: Jami Bunis, Katie Meninger, Katie Norton, Cari Santiago, Kelly Brittingham, Hope Hawks, Laura Frederick, Hillary Martell, David Weisman

Virtual Attendees: Megan Frizzell, Kelly Arbaugh, Candice Matthews, Kate Higley

Teacher and Staff Attendees: Principal Lewis, Lauren DeMonbrun

Meeting was called to order at 6:33

I. Welcome and Thank yous

President Cari Santiago thanked PTA members for their continued support and dedication to the PTA and Pine Grove Elementary School.

II. Approval of Minutes for General Meeting on 11/28/23

David Weisman moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting; Katie Meninger seconded. The November 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

a. Treasurer Hillary Martell provided the following information:

- i. There was a large \$563 expense recently for membership dues, and expenses for teacher & staff appreciation Thanksgiving pies
- ii. We deposited \$5560 recently: remaining funds from the fall fundraiser, Savers fundraiser, and fall spirit nights.
- iii. There is about \$25K in the bank account right now, we're in good shape for the rest of the year. We anticipate meeting our revenue goal easily this year.
- iv. We had talked last month about using our discretionary/capital improvement funds last month for walkie talkies for staff - to ensure each classroom has one. Ms. Lewis said we're going to get 20 new ones to program them to be compatible with the ones we already have. This covers broken and new staff that need them. So, that proposal can be tabled for now!
- v. Katie N. asked if there are any other needs that should be considered for this year. Ms. Lewis offered that for family engagement nights, sometimes staff need extra funds to cover supplies. Hillary asked Ms. D to query the staff for needs, and invited PTA members to input ideas as well.

IV. Principal's Report

- a. Ms. Lewis thanked the PTA for organizing the Red Robin restaurant night, and for the kindness cart - always a surprise.
- b. Families love the food distribution from SSN. The offer being on the table is very appreciated so they don't have to ask.
- c. Thanked for the special breakfast this morning.
- d. WBAL assembly with Ava Marie today was great. We had a surprise - Katyrah Love from American Idol came and did a singalong with kids during their lunch shifts.
- e. MAP and WETA (english language learners) testing coming up second week after returning from break.
- f. STEAM night is coming up on January 9. PTA will provide pizza.

V. Teacher Report

- a. Ms. Demonbrun echoed thanks for the breakfast, pies, kindness cart. It was awesome to see the SSN providing food for families today.

VI. Student Support Network

- a. Cari reported that SSN did its food distribution today; thank you to those who helped with it. 31/40 families who had signed up came to pick up their food they had signed up for - lower than usual. Ms. Kubala also gave out gift cards that were donated from Mrs. Andrzejewski's church, Parkville Rec, and an anonymous donation to the school to benefit disadvantaged families.
- b. If anyone is interested in co-leading SSN, Cari would welcome a partner. Next drives will happen in spring and summer.
- c. Ms. Lewis asks if we can acquire larger coats; Cari will check.
- d. Erica asks about whether gift cards can be provided for Savers. Cari advises if people want to donate to SSN, specifically to PGE, they can designate their gift and add a note for its use.

Questions from Google Meet:

- a. Ms. Matthews asked if students can use rolling backpacks since devices are coming home now? Ms. Lewis replied they do not fit in the lockers. She updates that now that BCPS has implemented a few asynchronous days, and for precaution for inclement weather days, her directive has been to send the devices home. There has been one family who worked out an arrangement with the teacher to complete assignments without transporting them home.
- b. Kate Higley asked if teachers can nominate parents who are active in the classrooms but haven't yet gotten involved with PTA. Ms. D suggested she could survey the teachers to determine what they would be comfortable with; we could send home a refresher invitation in January.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Reading Incentives: Amanda McNeeley (not present) reported via Cari that 250 students turned in bookmarks for November.
- b. Family Events: Kelly Brittigham reminded everyone that the first school dance is coming up on January 12 at 6:15 PM – she is seeking volunteers to help with food, behavior. Give your email address to Kelly if interested. May sell pizza this year, want to put together a few raffles - feel free to donate items to Kelly if you'd like. She gave Mr. Pugh a gift to thank him for providing DJ services to our events.
- c. Student Appreciation: Jess Appel organized the Ava Marie/WBAL assembly today; she is working on an assembly for the spring. She is doing a great job of reaching out and getting people to come here for free.
- d. Spirit Wear: no updates; spirit wear will be sold at the dance.
- e. Teacher/Staff Appreciation: Katie Meninger presented breakfast this morning - loves to be able to do it. She was blown away by the other families who supported this - providing donations and helping. Kindness Cart will continue in 2024 and she is planning for Valentines, and teacher appreciation gifts in May.
- f. Advocacy: no updates
- g. Yearbook: no updates
- h. Fundraising: Katie Norton reported that \$284 was raised from Red Robin fundraising night. We are working on 2024: PB&J Grill spirit night on Jan. 17; Taharka Brothers is currently scheduled for February 10; hoping to move to February 3. Looking at Mamma Lucia's, Wendy's, Dominicks, Chick-fil-a. Cari adds a comment to look into whether your company provides donation matches and/or donations for volunteer hours. Her husband receives donations to the PTA in exchange for volunteer hours, from Exelon, for example.

VIII. Unfinished business:

- a. STEAM Night coming up - will provide pizza; be on the lookout for signup genius to help serve, collect money, etc.
- b. Book Fair coming up Feb 12-17; Cari is speaking to Scholastic tomorrow and will follow up with Ms. Lewis and Mrs. Cockey soon. There may be evening hours for the book fair during the dance and literacy night. If anyone is interested in helping, let Cari know.
- c. David Ross Ortho: Brings an ice cream truck to the school; can serve about 75 people. Will be a spring event. Need to determine what this could be used as a reward for. Amy Macfarlane is organizing; she will look into whether we can increase the size of the offering.
- d. In need of fifth grade parents to lead a committee for fifth grade activities. We will send a blurb for Ms. Lewis to send to fifth grade families to recruit interested parents.

IX. New business:

- a. Hygiene drive - Cari is bringing this up again from the last meeting. Ms. Lewis says she doesn't think it's a need that our students have. For now, products are available through SSN; teachers can access anytime.

X. Open discussion:

- a. Erica invites people to take flowers home.

Next meeting Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Adjourned at 7:30