

PGES PTA Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024

Location: Google Meet

Virtual Attendees: Kelli Arbaugh, Jami Bunis, Kelly Brittingham, Erin Coolahan, Laura Frederick, Kelley Giles, Francesca Graziani, Hope Hawks, Kate Higley, Morgan Kelley, Katie Kowal, Melissa Macefe, Hillary Martell, Candice Matthews, Amanda McNeeley, Katie Meninger, Katie Norton, Cari Santiago, Meagan Zink Denham

Virtual Teacher Attendee: Lauren DeMonbrun

Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM

I. Welcome and Thank yous

President Cari Santiago thanked PTA members for joining virtually on this snowy day and as always, thanked them for their continued support.

II. Approval of Minutes for General Meeting on 12/19/23

Amanda McNeeley moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting; Kelly Brittingham seconded. The December minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

a. Treasurer Hillary Martell provided the following information:

- i. Parents were thanked for donating \$200 towards the December Teacher Breakfast. More about the winter breakfast will be in January's report.
- ii. The Beachmont Fundraiser raised \$100, and the check was cashed.
- iii. Kindergarten went on a field trip in December and \$500 was covered by the PTA.
- iv. The third-grade teachers have informed the PTA that a field trip is being planned, so we will be spending \$500 towards that in the next few weeks.
- v. Our first school dance for grades PreK-2nd brought in \$1,180 after purchases. Started out with low online ticket sales but ended up with about 90 students.
- vi. Mrs. DeMonbrun reached out to Cari Santiago about a few ideas teachers had if there were discretionary funds, since the Walkie Talkies were funded by Baltimore County.
 1. Recess bags for each class or one per grade. Unsure of what items would be in them and price per bag at this time.
 2. Picnic tables near the gardens close to the kindergarten playground.
 3. Providing materials for STEAM night.
 4. Cari Santiago spoke about the ISDM teachers have asked for a fence around the kindergarten playground, so their kids have a safer place to play. This would be an 4-foot fence circling the small playground. Principal Lewis got a quote of \$10K to build it. The PTA proposes that we contribute \$3K

to the construction of the fence in hopes the county pays the remaining, since it is a safety issue for some students. She asked if anyone had any questions and if they did to please reach out to her.

IV. Principals Report

- a. Principal Lewis was not logged on. Cari Santiago suggested emailing her if anyone has any questions.

V. Teachers Report

- a. Mrs. DeMonbrun mentioned the teachers loved the snowy day!
- b. Talked about the interest teachers have in picnic tables and recess bags if the PTA has space in the budget.
- c. Reminded everyone STEAM night was rescheduled and Cari Santiago said if anyone is willing to help sell pizza to sign up in the chat.
- d. Principal Lewis texted Mrs. DeMonbrun during the meeting apologizing for not logging on because she thought it was cancelled. Principal Lewis told Mrs. DeMonbrun to mention how amazing the dance turned out, asked if we talked about the fence and mentioned the Star Lab will be set up in the gym in the upcoming days.

VI. Student Support Network

- a. Cari Santiago who runs SSN will be more than likely stepping down as Lead SSN contact due to the Baltimore County re-zoning Boundary Study.
- b. Kelly Brittingham has told Cari she is interested in stepping up and taking over SSN. Cari will stay on as a co-lead, if needed, until December 2024.
- c. If Kelly takes over SSN then we will need someone to Lead the Student Event Committee. Cari asked people to reach out and she would tell them the good and ugly about the position!
- d. Cari is cleaning out S1 currently and starting to organize it for SSN.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Reading Incentives: Amanda McNeeley reported we had 200 students turn in bookmarks for the month of December. The prize this month was a hit (fidget spinner). She is contacting Kona Ice soon about scheduling the end of the year celebration for students who turned in 6 out of the 7 bookmarks.
- b. Family Events: Kelly Brittingham thanked everyone who helped with the dance for Prek-2nd graders on January 12th. Kelly gave a shout out to Kim Warner for her amazing crowd control skills. We sold around 85 student tickets at \$5 per ticket. There were 20 students who bought tickets at the door. The dance brought in \$1,182 by selling tickets, concessions, raffle tickets and glow sticks/wands. Pizza slices (12 per pizza) were sold for \$1 a slice and we went through 14 out of the 16 cheese pizzas purchased. The remaining 2 pizzas were given to volunteers and our building service

team. Kelly mentioned long lines at the entrance door and concessions, so we need to brainstorm about ways to improve. Hillary Martell mentioned to Kelly we were close to the maximum limit of people in the cafeteria. The cap is either 200 or 250, but we need to double check for the next dance, so we don't have a Fire Safety concern. We talked about encouraging families to purchase tickets ahead of time. Kelly said she doesn't want to discourage "at the door sales." Hilliary suggested a deadline on tickets sales.

- c. Student Appreciation: Jess Appel was not present. No updates now.
- d. Spirit Wear: Katie Kowal was not present at this time (she logged on later but did not give an update). Cari Santiago spoke about the new \$4 panda magnets that were sold at the dance and she mentioned spring spirit wear is in the works.
- e. Teacher/Staff Appreciation: Katie Meninger said the Kindness Cart was scheduled for today (1/16) but was cancelled due to snow. The committee is currently working on ideas for Valentine's Day. All teachers, staff and bus drivers will be receiving a small gift.
- f. Advocacy: Morgan Kelley had no updates. Kelly Brittingham asked Morgan if she had any suggestions on how to make the next school dance more inclusive for all students. Morgan said a quiet room with coloring books. Cari Santiago told them we are not allowed in the rooms after hours but could ask Principal Lewis about setting up a table in one of the hallways with a parent volunteer.
- g. Yearbooks: Katie Adams (not present) Cari Santiago talked on her behalf about the 5th grade shout outs and baby pictures for the yearbook are now being sold. The link was sent out via FB and PTA flyer.
- h. Fundraising: Katie Norton mentioned Spirit Night at PB&J's Grill is on 1/17 from 4-9pm. The Taharka Brothers fundraiser is live starting 1/21 through 1/31. She encouraged everyone to send the link to family and friends. The cost is \$65 for 8 pints of ice cream and then the school will earn \$15 from each order. Our goal is 50 orders which will raise \$750 for our school! Orders need to be picked up from PGE on 2/3 from 9:30am-10am. Katie is currently working on class parties for the 14 classes who raised over \$500 during the Fall Fundraiser. She suggested a Party in a Box which will include snacks, toys, etc. She wants to keep it simple and easy for the teachers. Cari Santiago asked if anyone was interested in taking over Fundraising next year.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Cari Santiago mentioned we need volunteers for STEAM night to help sell pizza.
- b. The Book Fair will take place Feb. 12th to Feb. 16th. Cari created a Google Doc and put the link in the chat for volunteers to fill out about days and times they can help.
- c. Literacy Night is Feb. 13th 5-7:30pm. The PTA will be helping with the Scholastic Book Fair during those hours and will need volunteers, so be on the lookout for a sign-up genius. Don's Dogs Food Truck will be on site.

IX. New Business

- a. PGE PTA has \$1,000 to give as a scholarship to an upcoming high school graduate who attended PGE. We can do 1 \$1,000 or 2 \$500 scholarships. Who can take this on and reach out to our local high schools? Katie Kowal said she would take it on. Hillary Martell told Katie she would look for the form we have to send to school counselors about the scholarship.
- b. Erin Coolahan will be taking on selling Hershey Park Tickets. There are no online tickets this year. Tickets are priced at \$44 each and we set the price for what we sell them for. Last year they sold at \$45 a ticket and we profited \$400. Hillary mentioned it is not a huge money maker but more a convenience for families.
- c. Cari Santiago brought up the Baltimore County Re-Zoning Study and that Map C has been approved to move forward. The final decision will be made in March. We have 3 PTA board members who will be affected by this change and their positions on the board will be open. We will be looking to fill Cari (President), Katie (Communication Security) and Hillary (Treasurer). This will also mean we will need volunteers to lead our committee boards (fundraising, yearbook and student events). Kelly Brittingham said, "Can I just say this sucks." Katie Norton asked when we need to have nominee names in, so we have time to vote. Hillary Martell said she thinks it's a 60-day notice. This means we will need to have names by March and vote in May.

X. Open Discussion

- a. Cari encouraged anyone who is interested in becoming a board member to ask questions and reach out. Katie Meninger asked how we will advertise these positions besides just at the PTA meetings. Should we post on Facebook? Cari said we will talk more at the next meeting, and she will also ask Principal Lewis to send a school wide email out about the open positions.

Next meeting Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Adjourned at 7:27pm