Pine Grove Elementary School PTA

**PTA Meeting**

**Monday, November 15, 2021**

Meeting Notes

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**Call to Order** – 6:33pm by President Anna Gibbons

**Attendees:**

Anna Gibbons, Karin Wohlgemuth, Hillary Martell, Cari Santiago, Vicki Pitman, Jen Keiber, Laura Frederick, Melissa Markle, Kristina Kubala, Laura Owenson, Jessica Appel, Kim McCray, Meagan Denham, Katie Adams, Candice Matthews, Diane Richmond.

**Welcome:** Next meeting is the 16th of December, will post on Facebook – amended – WILL NOT be Dec 16th.

**Bookmarks, Reading:**

Jen Keiber updated about the Reading Program – 290 bookmarks for the month of October, over half of the students participated. November bookmarks have been distributed. The Reading Program team is excited to be back and also excited that there was only 1 bookmark with no name – a reminder to teachers and parents to fill in the back. There are a team of 10 volunteers happening each month, we are so grateful for all of them.

**Fall Fundraising:**

Karin Wohlgemuth updated that the fundraiser is/was a success, it ends tonight! We have raised over our goal of $14,000, currently at $15,450! What an encouraging process – all the families that stepped up and participated, thank you. We are doing several announcements this week wrapping up the competitions – like the lap challenge and coin challenge. A huge thank you everyone who sent out fundraising emails & links, the kids that asked neighbors & family members – working together we did it! A shout out to Tasha for the amazing video on our Facebook page!

**Panda Pantry, SSN:**

Anna Gibbons updated that they have distributed backpacks to teachers as well as school supplies, moved in snacks – healthy snacks – for whenever they are needed. Extra school supplies are there and extra or emergency clothing, 34 winter coats in various sizes, etc, Canned food for anyone who needs it. If you know anyone who needs the services in there contact Ms. Kubala.

What do they need most right now?

* Not much right now, we have a grant to spend before the end of the year – we are funded by both state and local govt and private donors, if we need more we will reach out.
* You can donate directly to the SSN and allocate for a specific school.
* SSN partners with Weis on Honeygo for some big things like canned food drives, families can donate to that rather than bringing items to school.

**Budget Update:**

Hillary updated that the bank account is around $5,000. Outstanding expenses = $1,600 deposit for the yearbook and membership dues. Deposits coming for: Spirit wear (about $400) and $15k for the fundraiser. $18k is our working budget right now though we have about $3k in the checking account.

**Principal’s Report:**

Principal Richmond updated:

* Thank you for the time you’re taking to be here tonight. Thank you for the fundraiser. Alot of fun things are happening in the school right now; it’s starting to come together and students are forming the Pine Grove family again. It’s great to see.
* She’s used the Panda Pantry 3 times, sweatpants for a student who wanted to participate in the fun run, a backpack for a student when hers was ruined, and one student was a late pickup and Principal Richmond was able to provide a snack while he was waiting for his parents. These are all great things because it’s the little things can make or break a student’s day.
* Parent update included the switch of date for conference day – all seems to be good with that.
* Picture re-take is January 10th.
* Don’t know about the transportation situation will be this week – thank you to all who are making alternate plans. We anticipate the rest of the week we’ll have significantly late busses. Thank you to those who are carpooling, and teachers staying after to jump in and help out. Once the kids get to school they really are having a good day.
* We are going to start sending devices home with the students again. There was testing early in the year and it was good weather so devices stayed at school – now they will come home each day.
  + Will send Chromebooks home Monday for Parent/Teacher Conferences and RazzPlus, First in Math over the holiday, following the holiday they will be home everyday in case of bad weather.
* Q: Will there still be snow days? – Yes, it is for potential extended delays.
* Q: Should chargers stay home? – Yes, leave charger home and bring in the Chromebook fully charged.
* Q: Thank you for the responsiveness about the bus issues – what are you hearing from the district?
  + Nothing more than you have, we will continue to ask and distribute information as we receive it.
  + Going forward messages will go to families of just the busses affected.
* Q: We are getting double calls, can we just get one? – That’s surprising you should just get one. Principal Richmond will look into that case.
* Q: There is a bus driver rally happening Thursday, can we post it on Facebook in case anyone wants to attend? Chat comment requested it be posted.
* Q: Can we remind parents not to park in the car loop line? – Yes, she will send a reminder.
* Q: Can we ask for precinct support for crossing guard duties? – Potentially, it may or may not help.
* Q: Is there a way to limit the car loop line timeframe? 3pm is too early for people to be lining up.
  + Not sure how that can happen, but it’s a thought for consideration.
* Q: from a student – Are Pokemon cards allowed at school? – Yes, until they become a problem and it distracts from the learning environment. They may shortly be banned… the problem is starting to grow, right now it’s fine and they’re playing nicely.
* The next PTA mtg, both Principal Richmond and Mrs. Markle have conflicts, is there another date?
  + Hopefully sometime that week, we will try to figure out an alternate date.
* This is American Education Week.

**Teacher’s Update:**

Mrs. Kubala updated – nothing from the teachers. Thanks for all the events and having kids able to participate in all the things, it makes it kind of back to normal. Thanks for everything with the SSN, she uses it multiple times a day. Everything that you’re doing is amazing, thank you!

* Did more teachers join the PTA? Yes – a lot more teachers joined this week.

**Open Discussion:**

* Thanksgiving Pie Treat for the Faculty and Staff on Thursday to say THANK YOU for all the extra stuff they’re doing.
* Holiday Breakfast – is there a good date? The week of the 20th or earlier? – Week of the 20th is good.

**Closing:** Any other items to talk about?

* School pictures – is there a way to order if we don’t have the photo ID? – Call Mrs. Williams at school and she will have that information. Sometimes they send home the pictures to try to get you to order after the fact.
* As more volunteer opportunities become available we’ll reach out and make it available to you.
* Thanks for coming tonight!!

**Meeting Adjourned** – 7:23 pm meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karin Wohlgemuth  
Recording Secretary