Pine Grove Elementary School PTA

**PTA Meeting**

**Thursday, October 28, 2021**

Meeting Notes

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**Call to Order** – 6:34pm by President Anna Gibbons

**Attendees:**

Anna Gibbons, Karin Wohlgemuth, Hillary Martell, Cari Santiago, Candice Matthews, Diane Richmond, Jen Keiber, Laura Frederick, Kimberly Yamas, Jennifer Collins, Annette Maison, Melissa Markle, Tasha Logue, Heather Sauerwald, Kristina Kubala… (a few more individuals popped on for a bit and off before their names could be captured).

**Fundraising:**

Karin updated that the fundraiser is going really well, it’s over $9,000 now and we have exciting things coming up – FUN RUN on November 4th, Spirit Fridays continue, Coin Challenge the last week. Huge thank you to Tasha Logue for leveling up the graphics and the fundraiser in general - it’s going great, and we likely will be able to fund all we were planning/hoping to do!

**SSN:**

Anna updated that the Panda Pantry is getting stocked, Anna and Cari been in the last couple of weeks to organize on Wednesday & Thursday, to update things & processes in the school. It’s in a good place. It is being used and we’re so glad kids are benefiting from the supplies and getting needs met.

**Budget Update:**

Hillary updated that the bank account started with $5,315. Expenses YTD = $1,314, deposits = $674. $13,595 is our working budget right now.

Misc:

* Mrs. Cockey contacted us, and the PTA will be paying for the color copies of the Pine Grove Times (Newspaper Club) this year. The fundraiser was at a good point to be able to say yes to that right away!

**Teacher’s Update:**

Mrs. Kubala – Teachers have nothing but a big, big thank you to Anna and Cari for your work on the Panda Pantry!! She and Mrs. Franker are in there almost every day for clothing and supplies for students.

**President’s Report:**

* Thank you for the fundraiser, the reading program, and the Panda Pantry - all are running smoothly.
* Book Character Day tomorrow – all the teachers are getting ready for the class activities. It will be 100% rain so the parade would have been canceled anyway.
* 5th grade Field Experience (Bio Blitz) has been moved to Nov 3.
* Marking period 1 ends Nov 5.
* Nov 15-19th - is American Education Week – it will be virtual this year, more details will be forthcoming from the county.
* Nov 22nd – Report Cards available in Focus.
* Mrs. Frick has moved to another school; Mrs. Williams is doing an amazing job, we are waiting for another 10-month secretary, hoping she will be starting soon – she is contractual with Baltimore County – Mrs.Nittenger (spelling?) is her name.
* Lots of teamwork going on in the whole school, covering the temporary secretary vacancy and covering classrooms. Students are doing really well and she’s really proud of how all the staff are working together to cover everything.
* Transportation is still an issue – when one bus route is fixed, another changes to an unpredictable schedule. When they are late, they (Principal Richmond & Assistant Principal Markle) call to let parents know however, they don’t know until the last minute. There is no way around that, it changes each day and they can’t predict when a bus will be late. They are staying late to file a report to the Transportation Dept each day of any issues. They appreciate parents & families patience it and are still working on it.
  + Q: Cari asked: Is there anything that we as parents can do (such as: call transportation, call/email district representative)?
    - A: Richmond: You can feel free to call transportation, call Superintendent’s office, etc. They want to fix it, but they just don’t have enough drivers. You can attend Board of Ed meetings, ask to be a speaker at the meeting, whatever you want to do, to promote a raise for bus drivers or whatever.
  + Tasha: As an FYI - they are sending out letters to anyone with a CDL to ask if they want to drive.
  + Transportation is always trying to make up for any late busses. Good crew of drivers; we don’t have drivers going on strike, but we do have drivers calling out in mass at different times.
  + Laura commented that the driver and transportation is doing the best they can, and we should give them encouragement in a difficult situation.
  + Anna mentioned there are small gifts in S1 Principal Richmond can use for any bus drivers who are covering a lot of other drivers to encourage them and show some Panda love.
* Question asked: Can you update us about the school climate?
  + A: From Principal Richmond – kids were getting to school really early and it was causing problems. Principal Richmond called the parents to let them know they need to stay home until later and the problems have disappeared. Ms. Kubala is now also going out early to monitor and be present/discourage the negative behavior. Principal Richmond is out with the walkers at dismissal to be present and hopefully discourage foul language and silliness.
  + Biggest concern was the kids outside in the morning, that has been resolved.

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

* We could make a push for more people to join the PTA – reach out to friends and ask them to join and get information, context of decisions the school makes. Encourage teachers to join, they will resend the link for joining to teachers and to parents.
  + Everyone is so busy and taxed extra in our careers and family life but we’ll send reminders just in case people have lost the link.
* Kim Yamas - an idea for getting more people involved: the PTA sent something home with each student to connect. Could we do something to the folders to say, “Just Join”? We can promote more without being annoying.
* Q: How do we know if we’ve signed up?
* If you don’t know if you’ve signed up Hillary can look and see if you’ve joined.
* Tentative future PTA mtg dates: Nov 18 & Dec 16 – a bit fluid still and may try alternating nights of the week.

**Meeting Adjourned** – 7:18 pm meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karin Wohlgemuth  
Recording Secretary