Pine Grove Elementary School PTA

**PTA Meeting**

**Monday, October 17, 2022**

Meeting Notes

**Meeting held in person (school library) and virtually via google meet (to staff only)**

**Call to Order** – 6:33 pm by President Jennifer Keiber

**Attendees:**

**Jennifer Keiber, Hillary Martell, Cari Santiago, Katie Adams, Katie Norton**, Laura Frederick, Kelly Brittingham, Erica Reinhardt, Jessica Dolon, Brian McCartin, Kelly Clute, Katie Meninger, Katie Quinn, Kim Warner, Jessica Appel, Cassie Fick, Theresa Alexander, Kaite Kowal, Erin McKenna, Christopher Jacobs, Elizabeth Jacobs, Vicki Pitman, Amanda McNeeley, Liz Hall, Meagan Denham, Morgan K., Erin Coolahan (Bold names include PTA Board Members)

**Staff Attendees:** Principal Lewis, Assistant Principal Markle, Lauren Demonbrun, Ms Cockey, Ms Rankin

**Welcome/Introductions:**  President Jen Keiber welcomed the group to the meeting noting the huge turnout for the evening. Thank you to those who came early to meet with individual committees to start planning for the year.

Board members and staff attending the meeting were introduced.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the PTA General Meeting held on September 6, 2022 where the budget for the 2022-2023 school year was approved was in agreement for approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hillary updated that the bank account started with around $10,000. Expenses YTD = $500 for 4th grade field trip, August/September events $2,300. $8,600 is our working budget right now.

**Principal's Report:** Principal Lewis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Shared her gratitude for all that the PTA has already done during the short time school has been in session.

The administration would like to welcome Ms Webb to the teaching staff as a new kindergarten teacher. She comes with experience and is eager to begin on Thursday, October 20th. Parents were already notified if their child was being moved to the new classroom.

Magnet applications for 5th graders moving to middle school in the fall of 2023 are due November 4th. Applications can be found online and please note the deadline as there is no wiggle room.

Family game nights are rolling out over the next few weeks.

Look for information to come about literacy night which will be held in December.

**Teacher’s Update:** Ms D. shared her thanks to the PTA and the volunteers for all they have done this year to date. Pajama day was a huge hit.

A note from Mr. Pugh to let the PGES community know that the school has an instagram account: PGES.BCPS and to look for updates on that platform as well.

**Student Support Network:** Cari Santiago shared the background of the Student Support Network which was started through a grant to support the basic needs of Baltimore County students and families. It's now housed in over 20 schools in the county. The Pine Grove Panda Pantry houses clothes, food, school supplies, hygiene needs, etc. This year the SSN is planning to distribute 50 frozen turkeys to families in need. In addition to the turkeys, we plan on offering harvest bundles with seasonal produce and hygiene needs to be picked up the week before Thanksgiving break. A sign up genius will be created to help distribute the items.

50 new coats were picked up for those who need winter wear.

The SSN has a working budget of $4000.

The SSN received a one time donation of one million dollars.

At this time, the Panda Pantry is not in need of anything but if that changes, Cari will send out notification.

A question was raised about supporting our Special Needs population. Cari shared that forms can be filled out and special permissions granted if there are certain items needed to support our various populations at our school (i.e. weighted blankets, sensory materials).

**Committee Introduction/Overview:**  Jen K. shared an update on the importance of our committees. It is the PTA's hope that through the work of the committees this year, each subsequent year will have a strong foundation on where to head.

**Reading** **Incentive**/**Bookmark**: Amanda McNeeley updated that 525 bookmarks were distributed for the month of October. There are 7 parents helping to make the bookmarks and distribute the prizes each month. If a student submits completed bookmarks for all the months they will be invited to an end of year celebration. The hope is that Kona ice will again be the end of year celebration. Ms. Cockey will make announcements about the reading program to promote healthy reading habits.

**Family** **Events**: Erica Reinhardt shared that the committee is planning two school dances for grades pre-k-2 (1/13/23) and 3-5 (11/18/22). The pajama jam will have a "Glow Party" theme. Adults are required to accompany children. There will be food and non-food items for sale. A DJ is planned for both dates. Information about pre-sale tickets will be coming home soon and are encouraged to be purchased this way.

**Student Appreciation**: Jessica Appel shared that the committee is working on planning school assemblies. They reached out to the Catonsville Steel Drum Band for a possible springtime assembly as they are booked through the new year. Members at the meeting suggested looking into Arts Every Day, Zoomoble, Goucher Arts Program, and the Baltimore County Police Department K-9 team.

**Spiritwear:** Katie Kowal shared they are planning another spirit wear order before the holiday break. They are in the process of securing a printer. In addition to apparel, they would like to make smaller items like sunglasses, lanyards, etc. There will be a bucket in the lobby for children to drop off old spiritwear gear.

**Teacher/staff appreciation**: Cari S. and Liz H. shared that staff have enjoyed the luncheon during set up week, the dinner provided before back to school night, and the donuts and coffee provided for breakfast the morning after the evacuation.

**Advocacy**: Morgan K. willingly accepted to be on this committee and looking for other members to join her. A teacher brought up an issue surrounding the kindergarten playground. A fence or enclosure is being asked for in order to keep children from eloping from the playground area.

Katie N. brought up concerns surrounding cafeteria monetary deposits via the website. A service charge of $2.75 is being administered per student per transaction. Principal Lewis is going to look into this via Food and Nutrition Services. At this time, cash is being accepted.

**Yearbook**- Katie Adams shared that a 56 page yearbook is in the works. The committee would like to have a cover contest that 5th grade children can enter. Deadline for the cover is December 1st.

**Fundraising:** Katie N. shared that with the Fall Fundraiser kickoff we are already at $3,400 of our $15,000 goal. 50 students have already made pages on the 99 pledges site. The fall fundraiser is a great way to ask friends and family to donate to our school to support students, teachers, and activities throughout the year. Students will earn entries to weekly prizes, at $50 will earn a panda sweatband, $75 a wristband, and at $100 the student will earn 10 more entries for grand prize drawings. Prizes to include panda themed Alexa. Business sponsorship will get recognized in the yearbook and on a banner to be used at all PTA events.

Ms Goetz and Ms Mueller's class have already reached their class goal and earned a class party.

Amazon Smiles and Box Tops are still active.

On 10/23, 11-4, Chosen, a small boutique store in Hydes is hosting our school for a shopping day. 10% of sales will go to our school.

The change drive will happen next week. Any and all loose change is welcome!

\*A member asked if there was a facebook marketplace set up for our community to sell stuff to support the school.

**Unfinished Business/President’s Report:** There is not any unfinished business to discuss.

Jen K. wanted to inform members, staff, and community all that has been done since July 2022 to support of school, staff, and students: Two pre-k and Kindergarten playdates, Meet and greet Principal Lewis with Kona Ice Truck, Sneak a peek picnic with DJ, new order of spirit wear distributed, welcome lunch for staff, back to school decorations, budget approval, donuts for staff, welcome bags for all new staff members, book mark reading program kick off, board member meet and greet with the staff at school faculty meeting, Fall fundraiser kick off, and the continued support of the student support network.

**New Business:** Fall Fun run will happen on Thursday, October 20th. Volunteers are needed for this and a sign up genius will be sent out for sign up to help at this event. Parents need to check in at the office for a visitor badge before heading out to the field to help.

Volunteers can scan and email their certificates to our new school secretary, Ms. Harris @ sdiggsharris@bcps.org

Ms Cockey will promote activities on the announcements.

The PTA is offering a $500 supplement per grade for upcoming field trips.

**Open Discussion:**

Q: Will there be a school store?

A: The school store is a lot of work and does not generate a ton of money in return. If anyone is willing to man this operation, it could be up for discussion to have it return.

Q: What colors do the kids have to wear this week?

A: As part of BCPS Mind Over Matter Character Week students can wear colors to represent certain character traits. This is not a PTA sponsored activity but rather a BCPS county wide initiative.

Q: Are new staff getting welcome bags?

A: Yes, staff new to the school received welcome good bags with PGE items

Q: Is there a free library anywhere in the building?

A: At this time there is not a book exchange in the building. This is something to bring up with the school literacy team. Possibility at the literacy night in December. Also look into “Read to Reef” partnership and other reading incentives with the aquarium.

Q: Is the school on active Green School Status?

A: At this time the school is not active. All Extra Duty stipends for teachers have been allotted for the year. This can be discussed for next school year.

**Meeting Adjourned** – 7:44 pm meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katie Adams  
Recording Secretary