

PGES PTA Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

Location: PGE School Library and Google Meet

Attendees: Erica Reinhardt, Katie Meninger, Katie Norton, Jessica Appel, Amanda McNeeley, Hillary Martell, Hope Hawks, Kelly Brittingham, Dave Weisman, and Katie Kowal

Virtual Attendees: Candice Matthews, Francesca Graziani, Erica Corbett, Jennifer Saffron, Melissa Macefe, Amber Meinhardt, Laura Frederick, Cassie Fick, Kate Higley, Idaria Lopez Jacinto, Kristin Fenton, Arnette Fallin

Teacher and Staff Attendees: Principal Lewis

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

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 10/3/23

The October 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer Hillary Martell reported that the PTA is in great financial shape.
 - i. The account balance as of 10/31/23 was \$21,970.70.
 - ii. Since October, there are \$3,045.06 in outstanding checks and \$6,215.59 in deposits, so the PTA's estimated cash flow is \$25,141.23.

IV. Principal's Report

- a. Principal Lewis thanked the PTA for the Kindness Cart, pies, and assembly. She stated that the staff were thrilled.
- b. Principal Lewis told the group about the upcoming advanced academic testing that will be used as a screening process to identify students for advanced Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3 and 4.
 - i. Previously, this screening was done in grade 3 for advanced placement in grade 4. This year screening will take place in grades 2 and 3 and in future years only in grade 2.
 - ii. Principal Lewis stated that if students switch schools, their school records will move them. Even if students move to another district, BCPS would work with the new district to transfer records.

V. Teacher Report

- a. Mrs. D was unable to make the meeting. There was no Teacher Report.

VI. Student Support Network

- a. Thanksgiving Distribution
 - i. 34 families have signed up for the Thanksgiving food distribution which will consist of chicken, eggs, bread, and other non-perishable foods.
- b. December Distribution - 12/19/23
 - i. The December distribution will be similar to the Thanksgiving distribution.
 - ii. Please let Cari know if you are able to help.
- c. Coat Distribution
 - i. Ms. Kubala and Okeson have distributed 80 coats to students at school.
 - ii. There are more coats in the S1 closet.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Reading Incentive
 - i. In the first month, there were 235 bookmarks received.
 - 1. Amanda McNeeley reported that students like the riddle, that there are extra pandas leftover, and not having ribbons on the bookmarks is great.
- b. Family Events
 - i. Family Events Committee is hosting two dances this winter.
 - 1. The dance for K-2 is January 12th.
 - 2. The dance for 3-5 is February 16th.

Amber Meinhardt suggested a hygiene drive for students.

- Cari stated that the SSN provides pouches for hygiene supplies and that Ms. Kubala, Nurse Franker, and teachers help getting these supplies to students that need it.
- It was suggested that this might be a good conversation starter to help families.
 - c. Student Appreciation
 - i. A kindness laser show occurred on 11/10 to close out the fundraiser. Kids loved it.
 - ii. Ava Marie from WBALTV will come to PGES on 12/19/23 to give a presentation on weather to grades 3-5.
 - iii. The committee is still hoping to have a Steel Drum band and play at school.
 - d. Spirit - Wear
 - i. 12 orders were made from the store that just closed. The Committee is planning to reopen the store.
 - ii. Panda Magnets will be ordered and sold for a profit.

- e. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Plans:
 - i. Kindness Cart
 - ii. Winter Breakfast
 - iii. Jessica Appel also mentioned that the Staff Favorites on the website have been updated.
- f. Advocacy
 - i. Morgan was unavailable. Please email her if you have anything you'd like to discuss.
- g. Yearbook
 - i. Yearbook is for sale online [here](#) for \$20. It will increase in price on 11/1.
 - ii. 5th grade shout outs will only be allowed one baby picture.
- h. Fundraising
 - i. First, a big THANK YOU to Katie Norton!
 1. The Kindness Fundraiser raised \$17,453!
 - a. The coin drive raised an additional \$2,600.
 - b. Total of those two was \$20,053 which is a 33% increase from last year.
 2. Savers Fundraiser raised \$1,077.
 3. Parkville Lanes Fundraiser raised \$300.
 4. Total raised of all of the above was \$21,530.
 - a. A big thank you to Principal Lewis, Ms. Edwards, Officer Adam, Mr. Robert, Mr. Rodney, Ms. Brenda, Mr. Rashard, Hope Hawks, Cari Santiago, Hillary Martell, Amanda McNeeley, Jess Appel, Megan Frizzell
 5. Red Robin Fundraiser is 12/13
 - a. Take out or eat in
 - b. Tell your server that you're with PGES if eating in
 6. [PB&J's Grill and Games](#) Fundraiser is 1/17

VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Ravens Fundraiser
 - i. It seems like the Ravens Fundraiser is not feasible. It requires many volunteers over many weeks. Its off the table for now.

IX. New Business

- a. Walkies
 - i. Walkie Talkies are on the list of items the PTA would like to buy for the school. We will vote on this motion during the next PTA meeting.

- ii. Principal Lewis stated that the walkies are currently unavailable by BCPS's preferred vendor due to supply chain issues.
- b. Car Seat Drive
 - i. It has been brought to the PTA's attention that some students in the car loop do not have car seats.
The PTA will work with Ms. Kubala to explore the possibility of a Car Seat Drive.
- c. 5th Grade Committee
 - i. Amanda McNeeley volunteered to chair the 5th Grade Committee which plans special events for 5th graders.
- d. BookFair
 - i. The Book Fair will be held 2/12-2/16 during the day and in the evening in the School Library.
- e. Boundary Study
 - i. BCPS is conducting a boundary study that will affect families in our school. ([Link here](#))
 - 1. In fact, in the proposed changes, 4 of the 5 PTA Executive Board could be affected.
 - ii. The Boundary Study committee shared four options with the community in public information sessions and [this survey](#) to receive feedback. The survey will run until December 17.
 - 1. You can also submit comments [here](#). Constructive and data driven ideas/proposed solutions are best received.
- f. First Response Training
 - i. Kelly Brittingham took First Response Training.
- g. Taharka Brothers Fundraiser
 - i. This fundraiser is in the works for after the new year - probably February.

X. Open Discussion

- a. Any questions?
 - i. Principal Lewis likes mint chocolate chip ice cream.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.