

PGES PTA Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2024

Location: PGE School Library and Google Meet

Attendees: Amanda McNeeley, Cari Santiago, Katie Meninger, Katie Quinn, Laura Frederick, Kelli Arbaugh, Katie Norton, Hillary Martell, Jessica Appel, Cassie Fick, Amy MacFarlane, Rachel Hamilton, Erin Coolahan, Laura MacKenzie, Jami Bunis, Hope Hawks, and Dave Wiseman

Virtual Attendees: Melissa Macefe, Megan Frizzell, Christopher Jacobs, Maegan Zink Denham, Francesca Graziani, Anna Furry

Teacher and Staff Attendees: Principal Lewis and Lauren DeMonbrun

Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm

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 1/16/24

The January 2024 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 1/31/23 was \$21,970.70.
 - ii. Committees can review their balances on the front of the distributed report.
 - iii. January expenses included STEAM night, PK-2 dance and partial 3-5 dance, one field trip, and teacher and staff appreciation supplies.
 - iv. The book fair went well and the PTA elected to take our earnings of \$4,000 in scholastic dollars. \$2k will be used for teachers to shop now and the other \$2k will be used for teachers to shop next year when the book fair returns. Cari noted that with the book fair fund, the PTA was able to purchase 70 books. The teachers will distribute them to students as they see appropriate.
 - v. There is a proposal to spend \$2,000 of the PTA's capital budget on recess bags.
 1. Bags will include items such as balls, chalk, bubbles, etc.
 2. Katie Kowal motioned to approve. Dave Wiseman seconded.

3. There was unanimous approval to spend on the recess bags.

IV. Principal's Report

- a. Principal Lewis thanked the PTA for the Kindness Cart (especially after the Ravens loss), Literacy Night, dances, and Valentine's treats. She stated that the staff were thrilled.
- b. Principal Lewis notified the group about upcoming Pre-K and Kindergarten round up on April
- c. Students affected by the rezoning may apply for special permission to remain at Pine Grove beginning April 1. Principal Lewis has forms available.
- d. There is an upcoming standardized science test for 5th grade.

V. Teacher Report

- a. Ms. D thanked the PTA for the book fair, the Kindness cart (especially after the Raven's loss), the dances, literacy night, and Student Support Network which she has recently had students who were recipients of.

VI. Student Support Network

- a. The spring break distribution will be on Thursday, 3/21 and Cari could use some help during the day.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Reading Incentive

- i. The end of the year Kona Ice party will be 5/16 1-3pm.
- ii. Dr. Seuss day will be this Friday, 3/1. Students will receive a small token in celebration.

b. Family Events

- i. Kelly thanked all who helped with the dances. She noted that they went well.
- ii. The PTA will host an Earth Day event on 4/21 at Cromwell Valley Park.
 1. Students will go on a guided walking tour in the park and participate in a craft.
- iii. The Family Picnic is tentatively scheduled for May 31st.
 1. Questions arose about having food trucks on Summit so that they're not on school property.
 2. Should we make it a free event? Free face painting? Free games and prizes?
 - a. It was acknowledged that the PTA does not need to consider this a fundraiser - that we've surpassed our goal for the year.

c. Student Appreciation

- i. Assemblies are on hiatus through testing season. The committee is looking into a possible assembly for the end of the year.
 - ii. Prepared panda awards will be funded with the Student Appreciation budget line. Students who are eligible for the award will receive a special Panda flashlight at the end of the year!
- d. **Spirit Wear**
 - i. Katie Kowal reported that we are nearly all out of spirit wear - we have one hat and one tee shirt left.
 - ii. Katie will be ordering panda stickers and will chat with Katie Norton about combining forces.
 - iii. Katie is also looking into ordering the next PGES tee shirt. She asked the group if she should solicit new designs or go with last year's runner up - the pixel panda. The group agreed that they like the pixel panda idea.
- e. **Teacher/Staff Appreciation**
 - i. The Teacher/Staff Appreciation committee organized the kindness cart and valentine's treats.
 - ii. Katie Meninger reported that the committee is planning teacher appreciation week with a surprise for staff each day.
- f. **Advocacy**
 - i. Committee chair Morgan Kelley was unable to attend the meeting.
 - ii. Cari reported that they had a coloring table outside the cafeteria during the dance as a place for kiddos to get a break and it was used.
- g. **Yearbook**
 - i. Yearbook sales are ramping up. They are currently \$25.
 - ii. 5th grade parents can send in shout outs and pictures. The cost of both is \$10. The cost of the shout-out is \$5.
 - iii. Reminder: the 5th graders will be gifted a yearbook from the PTA.
 - iv. There will be a drone shot of the 5th grade class on April 5th.
 - v. The upcoming spring photos will likely not make it in time for the yearbook.
- h. **Fundraising**
 - i. Katie Norton reported that there is an upcoming spirit night at Mama Lucia on 3/13.
 - ii. There will be another spirit night at Prigel in April - date tbd.
 - iii. Erin Coolahan is running the Hershey Park ticket fundraiser.
 - iv. The group reported that the Taharka Bros fundraiser was low lift and high reward. We made approximately \$700.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Boundary Study
 - i. The boundary study will be officially completed with the Board of Election vote on March 19th.
 - ii. It likely means there will be vacancies in the PTA board. Please be ready to step into these roles.
- b. Discretionary Budget
 - i. Principal Lewis approached the PTA in December's meeting about the possibility of our help funding a fence around the kindergarten playground in an effort to prevent eloping of students in the ISDM program which is especially concerned with the parking lot and road close by.
 - 1. There were multiple concerns regarding the size of the fence which was proposed to be around only the mulched area.
 - a. It would restrict the kindergarteners' ability to run, use chalk and play around the playground.
 - b. There is no shade within the fenced area.
 - c. There was concern about having two classes on the playground at the same time as is part of the schedule right now.
 - 2. The question arose about the county's responsibility to fund the fence entirely.
 - a. Principal Lewis explained that BCPS would be able to fund it eventually but that it could be done right away if she was able to fund part of it. Unfortunately, her school budget doesn't allow for that amount of commitment.
 - 3. There was a motion to budget \$3,000 from the PTA's discretionary capital budget line for the school's use for a fence. It was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - a. Note: the PTA will provide the funds. It is up to the school and county to decide what the fence will look like and where it will go.
 - ii. 5th grade sub committee.
 - 1. Amanda McNeeley reported the following events to help celebrate the 5th grade's graduation. Details are forthcoming.
 - a. Ice cream party
 - b. Swim night
 - c. Bowling party

2. The committee also plans a drone pic and tee shirts for the students.

IX. New Business

- a. Pre-K and Kindergarten Round Up will take place on April 3 & 4
 - i. The PTA will have a table with information and offer tours of the school
- b. Classroom Supply Drive will be held next week.
 - i. The goal is to restock classrooms with supplies during germ season - tissues, cleaning wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.
 - ii. The class with the most collected will win a class party.
- c. Pine Grove Middle School reached out to our PTA to communicate that they will have open positions on their PTA for any rising middle school parents who are interested.
- d. Katie Kowal reached out to surrounding high schools to let them know about the scholarship opportunity that the PGES PTA offers to Pine Grove graduates.

The next meeting will be held on 3/12 at 6:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.