

Pine Grove Elementary School PTA
PTA Meeting
Monday February 13, 2023
Meeting Notes

Meeting held in person (school library) and virtually via google meet.

Attendees:

Jennifer Keiber, Hillary Martell, Cari Santiago (Virtually), Katie Adams, Katie Norton, Laura Frederick, Kelly Clute, Katie Meninger, Jessica Appel, Cassie Fick, Robert Bennett, Kim McCray, Katie Kowal, Erica Reinhardt, Morgan Kelley, Erin Coolahan, Kelly Brittingham, Katie Quinn, (Bold names include PTA Board Members)

Virtual Attendee: Candice Matthews, Hope Hawks, Vicki Pittman

Staff Attendees: Principal Lewis, Assistant Principal Markle, Lauren Demonbrun,

Call to Order – 6:35 pm; Welcome extended by Jen K, president of the PTA.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the PTA General Meeting held on January 19th 2023 was in agreement for approval by Katie Meninger and second by Katie Norton.

The Treasurer report was submitted by Hillary M. January outgoing expenses consisted of before and after school club supplies, headband and wristbands from the Fall fundraiser, membership dues to the state, reading incentive program supplies, and incidentals from the school dance. Incoming funds included \$1,200 from the light up the night dances and \$300 for winter spirit wear. We have a current estimated budget of \$17,000. This money will likely cover assemblies, field trips, yearbook costs, and teacher incentives which were increased this year to \$50 per teacher. We will have a small estimated carryover of \$3,000 to start the school year.

Principal Lewis shared a thank you from staff for the kindness cart. Mrs Markle will be out for the month of March completing a principal

internship. She will spend two weeks shadowing a current school principal and will spend two weeks where she takes the lead as principal. Pine Grove staff will work as a team to make sure the needs of our students will be met in her absence. There will be team coverage while Mrs Markle is away. Students in grades K through three will be piloting a new reading initiative. The program is called Houghton Mifflin. Open court phonics program will remain the same for the rest of the school year. Please reach out to the administration if there are questions about the pilot program. A BCPS buildings service worker will be surveying the kindergarten playground area to assess the need/needs for a fence around this area.

Mrs Markle shared that she will make the fifth grade parent committee aware of the science testing schedule in order to plan for a potential fifth grade field trip.

Teacher Update: Mrs. DeMonbrun shared that the staff was thrilled with the kindness cart.

The Student Support Network will hold their spring distribution on March 30th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the car Loop area. Please contact Mrs. Kubala if you would like to be included in this distribution.

Committee Reports:

Reading incentive / Bookmark: Amanda McNeely shared that in the month of January 245 students participated in the reading bookmark program. Currently 227 students have completed bookmarks for all of the months or missed just one. The committee is starting to plan for the Kona Ice end of year celebration. More students in grades K through 3 have completed reading bookmarks versus grades four and five. The committee is looking at the first Thursday in June as the day to celebrate the reading accomplishments.

Family Events: Erica from the family events committee shared they are planning a spring event for the school community. This will be held on May

5th at 6:00 p.m. with a possible rain date. The event includes games, food, an outdoor movie, and picnic. The committee recognizes the need for many volunteers. Please contact Erica at ericareinhardt@gmail.com if you are able to volunteer time during this event or have ideas for the event.

Student appreciation: Jessica A. shared that all students would be receiving Panda erasers from the PTA for Valentine's Day. In March, for St Patrick's Day, students will receive a green bracelet as a gift from the PTA.

Eric energy will be coming to Pine Grove in April for a stem-based assembly. The committee is still hopeful to have one of Baltimore County Public Schools steel drum bands perform at an assembly for our students.

Spirit-Wear: Katie K. shared the winter shipment is in and will be distributed this week. The spirit wear committee is looking into creating a spring design possibly with a student vote. The committee may look to have items to sell at the spring event happening in may.

Teacher Appreciation: The teacher appreciation committee sent around the kindness cart on February 13th. Katie M and Katie Q made Valentine's day bags for staff to be distributed on February 14th.

Advocacy: Morgan K. is working to make sure assemblies meet the needs of all students at Pine Grove Elementary School. Mrs Markle shared that students who need assistive materials are able to access these readily during assemblies and other school events.

Yearbook: Katie A. shared that roughly 30 yearbooks have been sold to date. Yearbook prices will increase to \$25 March 1st. The link for fifth grade parents to submit shout outs for their fifth grade students will be posted soon. Shout outs messages only will cost \$5 and a shout out plus a baby photo will cost \$10. Spring picture day for students and staff will be taken on March 15th 2023.

Fundraising: Katie N. shared the importance of continuing to raise money to carry over into the next school year. We are looking for volunteers to take the reins on hosting a restaurant night for the spring. Some examples include Chick-fil-A or Chuck E Cheese. Please consider hosting a very low-key event.

5th Grade Parent Committee: A new committee was formed to help facilitate fun activities for fifth grade students. This committee met and discussed options such as the Panoramic Photo (to be taken on March 8th), t-shirts, field trip to Goucher College for a science based show, dance, movie night, picnic, and/or baseball game. The PTA is currently assisting with the cost of the graduation decorations (cake and snacks), yearbook gift and signing party. Possible fundraising ideas include selling yard signs (\$20), Chick-fil-A restaurant night, or Baskin Robbins night.

Panda cakes, similar to the panda cupcakes that were done last year, is a possible fundraising idea. The cake comes frozen. Distribution would be the day before spring break.

Unfinished Business:

The PTA will sell pizza “pie”, chips, and drinks at the Pi Day school event being held on 3/14. The PTA is looking for volunteers in ½ hour time slots to help sell food. It is being requested that an RSVP be sent out with the flier the school sends home to gauge how much pizza to buy.

PTA executive board holds office for 2-year terms. The current executive board terms are up at the end of June. The president position is open but looking to be filled by our current Vice President Cari Santiago. With that said, anyone can run for any position. Hillary M., treasurer, would like to stay on one more year and help train someone for the position. Katie N. plans to run for Communicating Secretary again and Katie A is “on the fence” for her position as recording secretary. Anyone interested in any of the positions should reach out to anyone on the executive committee for more information.

A nominating committee is needed to review nominees and present them 15 days prior to the last general meeting. 3 people are needed for this job. Please contact Jen K. or any member of the executive board if you are interested in helping with this committee.

A parent social event is being held on 2/23 from 6-8pm. Check the PTA facebook page for more information.

New Business:

Katie K. researched a SEL Curriculum proposal called “Move This World”. This is a video curriculum focusing on tier one students in the building. The program focuses on stress relieving, asks questions about feelings, and verbalizing how a student is feeling. The program is set for 36 weeks with 2-3 videos per week. There is a family link available as well. There are analytics to track who is using the program. The cost of the program is \$4,400 per year. The program has been sent to the teachers to demo. Currently Mrs. Kubala visits each class once a month for 45 minutes a session. Staff would like a few more weeks using the demo program to see if this is a worthwhile investment. In the short time it has been used by teachers, some report that “the kids enjoyed the videos, easy to implement, they already have enough conscious discipline resources, and they need more time to review the program”. Mrs. D will report further at the next PTA meeting. A question was asked if this program needs to be approved by BCPS.

A proposal was made for the PTA to use funds to pay for a digital marquee in front of school. Principal Lewis shared that our current marquee is very primitive. She would like it if this sign was more up to date and modern with the capabilities to change messages from within the building. The PTA will await a potential budget of the cost of this item. A vote will be needed to add this item to the budget for the coming year/years depending on costs.

Earth Day is in April. The PTA asked for thoughts/ideas of activities for this day. An idea was shared to invite Ranger Ann to the school from Cromwell Valley Park. More to come at the March PTA meeting.

Open Discussion:

Erica R. asked about having a covered pavilion area with picnic tables on the school grounds. Principal Lewis shared that this would need a special project request from BCPS.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 in the school library. Virtual link to be sent at a later time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm