

JRB, PTA

Meeting Minutes, September 8, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:10.

Principal's Report: We were able to add a fourth grade teacher, just before the start of school. Mr. Ryan Monaghan was hired. There are still only 3 sections in 3rd grade with 28/29 students per class, as well as in Kindergarten with 23/24 students per class.

It has been a great start to the school year. Kudos to all of our staff members. We have about 30-35 new students this year, but enrollment is still down a little from last year, as the 5th grade that left was a large class.

Open House will be on Thursday, September 15th. This is when the kids act as "tour guides" for their families.

We're busy with "Ready, Set, Glow." Mr. & Mrs. Berg have been planning it since the middle of the summer. So far, they've sold about 225 t-shirts and over 400 tickets. This is a family walk, beginning at 6:30 and ending with a DJ/dance party on the playground. The PTA is donating the money for the cost of the DJ. We are continuing to help generate enough funds for an outdoor classroom/shade structure for the playground. It will have shade, tables, and a platform for teachers to also use as instructional space.

Extended Day has offered to dollar-match the amount raised. So far, we're at about \$9,000 raised, so it's \$18,000 with Extended Day's offer. The PTA has over \$500 in a "playground specific" fund that will be donated as well. Other hopes to raise money will include Fall Mums for sale at Open House and Poinsettias & Centerpieces available at a later date, we're hoping to be where we need to be by April. There is a "tool box application" from Lowe's for another \$5,000 that we should know about after the new year.

The superintendent is looking for 2 parents for his committee to start taking a look at the budget earlier in the year. It could be another tough year for us, budget-wise, but he's hoping to start the conversations early.

Mrs. McGrath highly stresses the "communication piece" within our school. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have questions or concerns about anything. She's asking that if we talk to anyone who does not seem to be getting her information to please encourage them to contact the school. There may just be a glitch in the system.

Secretary's Report: Jerri Lumbert will be available for our next meeting to update on how many current members we have.

The minutes for our last meeting in June were presented and unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Myriah Zwicker should have actual reports available at our next meeting. But an estimation of over \$12,000 was reported in our account to start the year. We sponsored the DJ for Ready, Set, Glow for \$200. We currently have membership money coming in, as well as a check for \$450 from Box Tops. Mrs. Theriault did a great job using the money we gave for the school supply initiative this year. She researched the best prices available and was able to take care of pencils, glue sticks, and a few other things to lessen the lists that the teachers send home to the parents.

Calendar: The 2016-2017 PTA calendar of events was presented with a note that our meetings will now be on Thursday evenings, still at 6:00pm in the JRB Library. This calendar can be found through our link on the JRB website. Members can also "Like" our Facebook Page and find the information there as well. Someone suggested adding our "FB Link" to the JRB website so people can easily access it that way.

We keep a “Step by Step” binder in the library for anyone needing any kind of information, help, or forms from us.

We will put out a sign-up sheet out at Open House asking for volunteers at each of our events.

Ready, Set, Glow: Mr. & Mrs. Berg have done a great job setting up this event, which was previously discussed and the PTA was asked to fund the DJ for the event. Everything seems “ready to go!”

Staff Appreciation: Myriah has run this event in the past and is looking for a co-chair to “train” to hopefully pass the torch! Tiffany McGillvary has volunteered to help with this event. It will be on October 13th, during the half-day of conference, as feedback from the teachers has shown they prefer it on these days which is why we don’t do it during the traditional “Teacher Appreciation Week.” We will be looking for parent volunteers to help make and/or supply all food, drinks, & supplies. Also, volunteers will be needed to help with set-up, clean-up, and the running of the luncheon.

Coupon Fundraiser: Michelle Parkinson will be running this. After looking at the timeframe, we don’t want to overlap with the Nature’s Classroom fundraiser so we will bump this to early November. Coupon Books sell for \$25, we make a minimum of 50% profit on each book depending on how many we sell. The amount could increase the more we sell. Each child will take home one book and try to sell it, or send it back if they choose to opt out of the fundraiser. As well, they will take home an order form to try to sell more. Any family that sells 5 or more books will receive a free book for themselves. There are about 8 different versions available in other states or regions so friends and relatives from out of our area can also purchase them. We will need volunteers to help label and organize the books and envelopes once they come in.

Roll on America Fundraiser: Myriah received information and is looking for input. We would need to run the event 4 different times and have at least 100 people attend each time and we will earn \$1,000. A number of questions were raised regarding this, showing some interest. Myriah will contact them and try to answer some of these questions so that we can better make a decision.

Yearbook: We are looking for a yearbook chair(s) this year. Last year we used Lifetouch for the first time. Last year's chairs had some complaints with the customer service, however Mrs. McGrath has always had great service in using them for our school pictures. We have decided to give them another chance but first discuss our concerns, which include the customer service, as well as the size of the class pictures. Emily Littlejohn has agreed to be chair of the yearbook.

Open Forum: Mini-grants were put in the teachers' mailboxes already, attached to their membership forms. A cap of \$500 has been put on the mini-grants this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12.