

MINUTES

Donald E Schick Elementary PTO Minutes

April 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Kelly Watkins at 7:00pm

In attendance

Betty O'Brien, Nicole Justus, Vicky Kiehl, Jen Ellis, Erin Edmonds, Jen Panaccio, Jodi Stetts, Cathy Hall, Angela Pinsky, Michele Machmer, Kim Schon, Jayne Smith, Kelly Watkins, Dana Fisher, Carolyn Strickland, Beth Hughes, Julie Cohick, Kym Dunlap and John Rhoads

Roll Call - Vicky Kiehl

Budget - Jen Panaccio

Revenues down - Gertrude Hawke - \$17,000 gross, \$8850 net; Square1Art - \$2685; Visiting Author \$2200

Expenses – Read Across America \$231.68, Sci-Fi Saturday \$248.45, PSSA \$300.33

Past Business – Kelly Watkins

- Kindergarten Registration – high 70 count, expect 20+ over summer
- School-wide Olympics – qualified in gym then competed on Olympic Day
- Dr. Seuss Treat – Thank you, Carolyn Strickland! Cupcakes red fish, blue fish
- Dr. Seuss Night/Book Fair – Thank you, Nicole Reed! Book fair \$300-400 more than previous years
- Spring Family Night “Sci-Fi Saturday” – Thank you, Betty O'Brien! Well received by parents and families. High school students participated including DNA extraction from strawberries. Mrs. Hughes manned a table and Mrs. Ellis provided backdrop for pictures
- PSSA Treat donation – cut back this year; teachers provided snacks
- Box Top for Education Sumo Challenge – Thank you, Dana Fisher and 5th grade class! Mrs. Ellis commented that she enjoys when kids get involved, interested by challenges instead of just cutting out box tops for pizza parties.
- Schick Heros – Mr. Rhoads stated that 2 bicycles were given away to Schick Heros – students who are caught doing good enter a drawing for prizes and treats

Principal's Report – Mr. Rhoads

- Thank you to PTO members for contributing so much; time and service
- Mr. Gerald (Jerry) McLaughlin, New Superintendent – current District Business Manager, previous Acting Superintendent. Loyalsock finances best in county. Organized, level-headed. Meet during fall PTO meeting
- SRO Officers – 6 state troopers, 40 hours per week. Presence is phenomenal. Security changes suggested. Costs split between District and Township. Presentation to Township Board of Supervisors in the fall
- PSSA's – Kids worked hard. Reading and math completed. 5th grade Writing and 4th grade Science left to do. Writing Initiative really helped
- Safety Magnets – Sits over strike plate. Lock door and insert magnet. Pull magnet out if lock down initiated.
- Traffic – Long lines form down 4 Mile Drive. Parents show up at 2:05-2:10. RoboCall reminding parents not to come early, use of cell phones while driving, listen to staff and using placards. PTO will purchase new placards next year.
- Microphones/Sound System – Quite expensive. Will ask for PTO assistance to purchase down the road.

- Extended School Year – Starting 1 week earlier. Blast IU physically and mentally challenged students attend half days. Provide services and learning activities
- Writing Pathways Instruction – New way to teach writing. First year has grown leaps and bounds. Mrs. Ellis stated it's hard to compare from last year but from beginning of school year shows definite improvement. Mrs. Dunlap added kids now elaborate in their writing which is cool.
- Curriculum Online – Post updated curriculum online
- Early Dismissal – Thursday, April 17th at 12:15pm
- No School – Friday, April 18th
- Teacher Professional Development Day – Monday, April 21st, no school
- iPad Portable Cart – Mrs. Foresman submitted a grant to purchase iPad Air for DES Elementary. Not as extensive as middle and high schools. Cart schedule by day/grades. Apps to supplement learning. Hope to get more carts; 1 per grade. Always house in school.
- Schick "Happy" video – <https://gma.yahoo.com/video/gma-viewers-show-off-happy-174638309.html?vp=1>
- Fall Placement – May/late April form to parents for special needs placement next year. Request in writing and justification; type of teacher needed for child not specific teacher.
- Questions
 - Carolyn Strickland – Can you clarify what the kids can talk about concerning PSSA?
 - Mr. Rhoads responded nothing, content can be repeated for several years until retired so cannot discuss. Mrs. Hughes added that the kids acknowledge a Code of Conduct. Carolyn said it was a little disturbing when she asked her child about the tests and was told she couldn't talk about it. Mr. Rhoads explained that Loyalsock Township School District has no control over the process. There is security in place for testing and as an example stated \$20,000-\$30,000 fines for electronics. Mrs. Ellis reiterated that the list of instructions were the same for the PSSA but this year a Code of Conduct bubble was included for the kids to acknowledge.
 - Mrs. Hughes mentioned that teachers would like to know what parts of the test were difficult or on which parts the kids thought they did well. Teachers are not allowed to look at the booklets.
 - Mr. Rhoads agreed it is difficult to teach for a test but state has standards that must be met. He added that new Math strategies encourage open-ended responses
 - Nicole Justus – Can kids use iStation at home?
 - Mrs. Ellis answered that information would be going home soon. Some parents already have the forms.
 - Nicole Justus – With the change in Spring Break days what should be done about a planned family vacation?
 - Mr. Rhoads responded that the Family Vacation form should be submitted for the planned vacation. Forms should be in 2 weeks prior but he's a nice guy and will approve.
 - Dana Fisher – Are iStation passwords good over the summer?
 - Mr. Rhoads answered that he was not sure but would find out. Mrs. Dunlap added that other websites, like Study Island, allow passwords to be used all summer.

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Dunlap

New Business – Kelly Watkins

- Spring Treat – Carolyn Strickland stated the last treat would be April 25th; vanilla whoopee pies. Members can give her their names to volunteer. Setup in the conference room at 7:45am

- Fundraisers – Betty O'Brien
 - Sock Walk - \$11,723 after expenses
 - Gertrude Hawke – close to \$9,000
 - Square1Art - \$2685
 - Box Tops for Education - \$2400 projected
 - Target - \$100 projected
 - Hoss' Restaurant Night - \$190.66
 - Sweet Frog Fundraiser Night – May 15th 5-8pm. No invitation needed; 15% of all sales
 - Total approximately \$31,000
 - Comments
 - Jen Panaccio added fundraisers were less than budgeted but raised more than PTO spent.
 - Angela Pinsky suggested members sign up for Amazon Smile. Program through Amazon.com for charities.
 - Betty O'Brien asked if everyone liked the Square 1 Art fundraiser. Response was positive. Next year PTO will schedule for Christmas delivery
 - Michelle Machmer asked how art was chosen. Jayne Smith replied that students were given a piece of paper and asked to draw. If a student was not present than Jayne chose from existing artwork. Art work was scanned for 70 kids. Some students, when given the stickers, said they would do better next time. Mr. Rhoads added the timing worked well because Mrs. Comini was fantastic.
 - Jodi Stetts stated that 1 of 2 orders never came in for her child. Jayne Smith would follow up.
 - Kim Schon never received the order for her daughter's artwork; came into school but can't find. Jayne Smith is working on the issue.
- RIF report - During the last 2 weeks of school a book would be distributed to read over the summer.
- Yearbook – Mrs. Hughes thanked everyone for the pictures. Orders for yearbook are due Friday. She is excited about the color print option and noted the prices were good. She has many pictures from school events including 2 pages for Schick Olympics, Sock Walk and Dr. Seuss Night.
- Spring Pictures – Pictures will be taken on April 15th. Parents can order from delivered prints. No teacher or classroom pictures in the Spring. Betty O'Brien added that kids can bring stuffed animals and Kelly suggested baseball or scout uniforms could be worn.
- Kindergarten Screening –4 volunteers to assist. Contact Kelly if available.
- Teacher Appreciation – May 6th.
 - Erin Edmonds asked what it entails. Kelly responded that PTO sponsors a luncheon. John and Suzy grill burgers and dogs. Volunteers will be contacted. In fall PTO gave teachers a Keurig coffee pot and Kcup basket.
 - Nicole Justus asked how parents can give to both Mrs. Livingston (maternity leave) and substitute. Mrs. Hughes replied that staff will forward items to Courtney (Livingston).
 - Kelly suggested this would be a great time for room moms to recognize their teachers with something special that week.
- 4th grade Band and Chorus Concert – May 21st 7pm

- 5th grade Band and Chorus Concert – May 22nd 7pm
- Knoebels – Thursday, May 29th
- 5th grade Awards/Picnic – Tuesday, June 3rd
- Activity Day – Wednesday, June 4th
 - Angela Pinsky informed the members of the online volunteer sign up that Board is evaluating. Application will keep running total of volunteers; limits for activity volunteers can be set. Confirmation emails will be sent automatically when volunteers sign up and day before event. Volunteers are definitely needed.
 - Jodi Stetts asked where can parents sign up. Angela replied a form will be sent home with students.
- Middle School – 6th grade Volunteers
 - Kelly asked that members with children entering 6th grade in the fall consider becoming a 6th grade volunteer. Elise Stopper is the contact.
 - Angela Pinsky added that her and Kelly were on the PTO Board for middle school. Meetings are every other month at 8:30 am. Grade parents are needed that can attend meetings. There are 3 school dances on Friday's 7-9 throughout the year. Smaller scale Activity Day that is outside with an ice cream social.
 - Jodi Stetts stated it was a great experience. She built lots of friendships and it's a lot of work. There was a Washington DC trip last year. Much different than Schick PTO. Middle school fundraising is hit and miss; kids fund their own field trips.
 - Angela Pinsky described starting middle school as a culture shock for kids. They are more autonomous than elementary school
- By-law modifications
 - Jayne Smith explained that 2 VPs were given specific tasks; VP events and VP fundraiser. PR functions were added to VP events since it was vacant. VP fundraiser would oversee fundraising if there are no Chairpersons. Board added electronic media as a voting option. The Corresponding Secretary would help PR position with Newsletter (future project). Website coordination duties added to Recording Secretary position.
 - Kelly summed up the changes. Jen Panaccio stated there was a quorum so a vote could be taken.
 - Kim Schon motioned for a vote. Jodi Stetts seconded the motion. All Ayes.
 - Motion approved

Installation of New Officers

President – Angela Pinsky	Recording Secretary/Web Coordinator – Vicky Kiehl
VP Events – Julie Cohick	Corresponding Secretary – Jayne Smith
VP Fundraising – Betty O'Brien	Fundraising Co-Chair – Carolyn Strickland
Treasure – Jennifer Panaccio	Fundraising Co-Chair – Erin Edmonds

Questions/Comments

- The Executive Board thanked Kelly Watkins for her 2 year service as President. Warm wishes from PTO members.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 14 at 7pm in the Library, Donald E. Schick Elementary School

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:15pm and was passed unanimously.