

PTO Meeting Minutes

Gray's Woods Elementary School

March 1, 2017

Attendees (based on sign-in sheet): Jennifer Howell, Carina Howell, Kristen Koshko, Kelly Brayman, Jamie Short, Racquel Estep, Kris Dewitt (Principal), Theresa Ondrejik, Colleen Sheehan (Teacher), Darcy Houseknecht, Michelle Varassa, Christina Hill, Gretchen Schrock-Jacobson, Jennifer Black, Micaela Colavecchi (Teacher), Kristie Patterson, Anne Bruce (Librarian), Hillar Haris, Jen Bowersox, Nickey Siekman

1. Call to Order by Jennifer Howell at 7:04pm. Welcome & Introductions.
2. Secretary - Approval of minutes from Feb. 1, 2017. A motion to approve by Christina Hill, second by Gretchen Schrock-Jacobson. All in favor.
3. Principal's Remarks –
 - a. March Madness reading has begun. Literacy night was a success. A bracket was created to find children's favorite books. It's a national program. Books and basketball madness will begin after spring break. Parents receiving flyer, and as kids read they complete the basketballs. Classrooms compete for the trophy.
 - b. ~\$8000 donated to Jump rope for Heart by GWE students.
 - c. Kindergarten enrollment coming up. Gray's Woods elementary is after April 18th.
 - d. PSSA testing: April 4th ELA week of tests, grades 3, 4, 5. Math for a few days. Science at the beginning of May.
4. Treasurer's Report – Little activity over the holidays. Balance is \$16,870.81. Income: Box tops and spirit wear. Expenses: Visiting Author, babysitting, donuts with Dad, Popcorn for movie night, Spirit Wear Invoice, printing, and 2nd grade hardback books.
5. Events and Committees Overview and Updates:
 - a. Past Events:
 - i. STEAM – Carina Howell – Change time from 6:00-7:15pm.
 - ii. Panda Express – Michelle Varassa – collected more than \$100.
 - b. Ongoing Events:
 - i. Box tops – Michelle Varassa – January check for \$1400. Kids getting spikes tickets for bringing in 100 tickets. 31 kids participated. Box tops on different items now, so not as many coming in.
 - ii. Coast to Coast & Family Fit Night – Jen Black – last week was the last week of tracking. Great success with participants. 155 people signed up. 151 active. Family fit night went well. ~130 apples from Way fruit farm were donated. Mr. Lloyd pushed the apples and they all were gone. Yoga and other activities were done with the kids. Thanks to parent volunteers and Mr. Lloyd for helping to set up the stations. Bowling: Sunday, March 19th from 1-3pm. ½ price bowling. 134 kids qualified for bowling. 75 hours you get a big foot token.

c. Upcoming Events:

- i. Talent Show – Michelle Varassa – March 24th at 6pm. 15 acts so far. Interns are going to do an act. Practice on March 14th from 3-4pm.
- ii. Gardner’s Candy – Raquel Estep - \$4285.70 ordered. We get a 35% profit. \$1500 profit. Every sheet with more than \$50 the child will get a ticket to the Carnegie Science Center. If families order online we get 25% profit. The pickup is on April 7th from 3-6pm. Signup genius for volunteers will go out to help with sorting.
- iii. Spring Pictures – Theresa Ondrejik – Wednesday, March 22nd. Fliers will go out with LifeTouch info. PTO gets \$2 per each child who sits for a picture.
- iv. Earth Day – Amy Schirf – Friday, April 21st. A recycling craft, the PA game commission, Shaver’s Creek, PSU IDEAS, and some garden activities. She will send out a signup for the teachers.
- v. Book Fair – Jen Black – April 12 and 13th. Conferences are Thursday, April 13th and Monday, April 17th. The fair will begin Wednesday night after school (~3-6pm) and will be open on Thursday also. It’s a buy one book, get one free. We don’t earn scholastic dollars unless we reach a certain dollar amount and then we get some bonus rewards. Sending out signup genius in a couple of weeks.
- vi. Teacher appreciation – (write up from Dani Esten) – May 1st -5th. Superheros theme. Instead of cards they are doing families and kids generate Wordles. Taco luncheon. Snacks on other days. Supplies sign up for specials needs.
- vii. Summer Library/Visiting Author – Anne Bruce – Extended contract. Three hours per week would be \$1660. \$1245 two hours per week. Dr. Dewitt will look into how it is funded at other schools and why it isn’t at all schools. The visiting author for next year is Holler Keller - \$1600 includes four 1 hour long presentations plus expenses. “Ears are for Hearing”
- viii. Challenge Run - Kristen Koshko (Fundraising letter - Jenn Howell) – Second year of the challenge run. Friday, May 12th during the school day. 3rd – 5th graders run first, K-2nd run second. Older kids cheered on the younger kids last year. All school assembly on April 20th to kickoff the event. Incorporate Wolf Pack Run on that day. Pledge sheet will go home with kids. Online donations will be set up. Information letter will go home with parents. Talked to Corl Street Elementary and Park Forest Elementary on how they did their fun runs and fundraising. They both make around \$20,000 per year. Issue brought up with doing it in the spring, instead of fall. We would lose both 5th graders and incoming Kindergarteners for donations. Jenn Howell discussed our current budget and moving to a one-and-done fundraiser. There was a suggestion that we could maybe have a Marianna’s fundraiser combined with a movie night for fundraising and community building.
- ix. Jersey Mike’s fundraiser. Kristie Patterson - May 22nd-24th. Cards distributed the Friday before.

6. New Business

a. Budget for School Supplies

- i. Budget for 2nd grade hard books \$300. \$5000 for school supplies.

- b. Community Service project
 - i. School donation - school supplies. Should we do this again this year?
 - ii. Jared Boxes – not going to happen this year because of time constraints.
- c. Recruiting for positions. Look into changing By-laws for board members.
 - i. Three positions will rotate out every other year. President, Events Chair, and Communications Chair will be switching out in Spring 2018. The other positions will stay to Spring 2019. This coming year we will recruit for President, Events chair and Communications chair. We want to allow for a 'shadowing' period with new members the last few months of the year (or per preference).
- d. Nickey Siekman asked for an update about the school day possibly being extended. Would it include a Language offering for students? Dr. Dewitt reported that there's a SCASD committee to look at this and has been meeting for the last year. The committee is making a plan. They are talking to teachers and others in the district about the plan. Nothing has been approved. Teachers are negotiating with the administration. Once that is complete, then the school board will vote and discuss with community. Longer school day would possibly to be to implement a foreign language.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.