

Woodland Elementary PTO Meeting

November 8, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance: Amy Engel, Sara Dana, Teresa Butler, Jamie Blake, Tiffany Holmes, Sue O'Donnell, Sonya Ratliff, Kylie Allen, Michele Helner, Andre Carr, Pam Hoeksema, Staci Bryan, Emily Kilian, Amy Doyle, Jen Agay, Carrie Bartlam, Staci Andrews, Esther Bouwman, Faith Plew, Shana Brown, Rebecca Sloniker

Introduction: Sara Dana opened the meeting by requesting those in attendance to review October's minutes for any needed changes.

Motion to approve minutes of last meeting (October 11, 2011): Faith Plew, 2nd: Amy Doyle

Treasurer's Report: Teresa Butler discussed the revenue from Sally Foster coming in at over \$10,000. The on-line sales from Sally Foster have not been received to date. The budget was planned for \$8,000. Movie night brought in about \$250. On the expense side, the teacher's support was the only notable expense. No questions were presented.

Motion to approve: Faith Plew, 2nd: Amy Doyle

President's Report: Sara Dana began by thanking everyone who helped at Movie Night, expressing appreciation to the 5th graders for their respectful, impressive support during the event. Volunteers from Central High were also thanked for their help. Sara Dana & Teresa Butler acknowledged the need for someone to chair the next Movie Night. Sue O'Donnell brought up the need for more seating. Parents would like to see the event more family oriented. Faith Plew added parent monitors might be helpful during the event.

Sara Dana discussed the need to fill open chairs including: Movie Night, Safeties, Media Center, Teacher Appreciation co-chair, and Chess Club. Sara will be filling the vacant Coupon Book chair position.

Sara informed the group of a master planning meeting scheduled for Nov. 9, 2011 for the school district. The elementary buildings will be the topic of this meeting.

Special Matter: Sara Dana acknowledged an important matter on the agenda stating, "We all can appreciate funding for the schools' has been hurt." Feedback from the teachers affirms the need of funds for books, technology, etc. Sara Dana and Amy Engel recognized this need and proposed using PTO cash reserves to subsidize these needs. This would be a one-time use of PTO surplus. A parent/teacher committee along with Sue O'Donnell was proposed to look at overall needs of the school. The funds would then be dispersed by greatest needs.

Motion to establish such committee: Shana Brown, 2nd: Jamie Blake

Guest Presentation: PEF (Portage Education Foundation) representatives spoke about giving to provide grants to Portage schools. The PEF Now Fund is similar to a checkbook. Giving to this fund is designed to provide grants to the schools at the end of each year. Questions regarding giving to this fund can be directed to Faith Plew, the representative for Woodland Elementary.

Principal's Report: Sue O'Donnell began by expressing her appreciation for the PTO's willingness to give extra funding to the school. Sara Dana acknowledged that the current members had not raised the money, but have been able to maintain a good level of fundraising and keep the budget fairly balanced. The right thing to do was to utilize some of these extra funds to help the school in these difficult economic times. Sue talked briefly on the success of Trunk or Treat. She counted over 870 people, of those approximately 550 children served at this event. Sue mentioned the 5th grade camp and the mobile dentist as upcoming events. Sue spoke about Early Childhood/Special Education teaming up with Great Start for a popcorn/pajama activity. Their focus for these preschool students is to bridge the gap for successful transition to Kindergarten. Sue also touched on RTI (Response to Intervention) meetings being held to assure each struggling student has intervention that is working for them.

Teacher's Report:

Sonya Ratliff spoke on EFA (Education for the Arts), a program designed to expose students to art/theater. 1st through 4th grade programs are set for this year. The 5th grade program is currently being worked on.

Michelle Helner thanked everyone for welcoming her into 2nd grade this year.

Committee Chairs:

Teacher Appreciation

Jen Agay is hosting a teacher appreciation meal on Nov. 16. Teachers doing conferences will enjoy a catered meal from Olive Garden. Donations are being collected to help cover the cost of the meal.

Sally Foster

Cookie dough sales brought in a little over \$10,000, not including proceeds from on-line sales. Shana Brown expressed her thanks for so many generous people who stepped up to help on this committee. Shana expressed the need for co-chairs next year, if you're looking for a way to give. Discussions regarding next years' fundraiser are already underway due to early signing bonuses. Contact Shana Brown or a PTO board member if you are interested in co-chairing this fundraiser.

Membership Directory

The directory is planned to be out by Thanksgiving.

Coupon Book

The kick-off for coupon book sales is Nov. 21st, with an end date of Dec. 5th. Proceeds are 50% of sales going to Woodland PTO.

Battle of the Books

This year's Battle of the Books consists of 25 kids, mostly 4th graders. A coaches meeting is scheduled for Nov. 22 at which time the titles of the books will be released. Books bought through the book club will receive a discounted price. The first battle date is scheduled in February.

Box Tops

Box tops brought in for the month of Sept. were 2,898 tops which equal \$289.80. October's box top contributions were 6,182 tops, or \$618.20. This brings the total to \$908, almost halfway to the year's goal.

Chuckie Cheese

The date for Chuckie Cheese night has been rescheduled for Dec. 1st.

Holiday Giving

Nov. 21st and 22nd are key dates for volunteers to pick-up information from the office regarding children's needs at Woodland for Christmas. Nov. 23rd-Dec. 18th are the dates for volunteers to shop. Volunteers will wrap and label gifts to be dropped off on Dec. 19th. Dec. 12th-Dec.14th are also important dates at which time teachers will be taking donations in their classrooms for purchase of additional gifts. Families will then pick up these gifts Dec. 21st-Dec. 23rd.

Next Meeting: January 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., Activity Room