

## PTO MEETING MINUTES

9/6/2023

### 1) Meeting called to order

- a. The September meeting was called to order by President Anne Earsley.
- b. Members present: Autumn Bowers, Natasha Sawicki, Jan Hansen, Jen Garlie, Amy Krush, Amanda Anstrom, Erika Engstrom, Heather Johnson, Sherry Wald, Billi Wolf, Melanie Biesterfeld, Heidi Quinn, Amanda Wimer, Debbie Jans, Ashley Murrey, Jana Job, Lindsay Boone, Jenalee M.
- c. Teachers present: Mrs. Job, Mr. Woock.

### 2) Agenda

- a. The September agenda was reviewed by the group.
  - i. No changes or additions to the agenda.

### 3) Approval of prior meeting minutes

- a. The August 2023 minutes were reviewed and approved by the group.

### 4) Teacher's report

- a. Mr. Woock is planning a middle school field trip to Gateway to Science in Bismarck. It would be 3 separate field trips; 1 for 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 for 7<sup>th</sup>, and 1 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Total students attending would be 59.
  - i. Debbie J. motioned to give \$500 to Mr. Woock to be used for the field trip. Amanda A. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Mr. Woock has requested help from parents, students, and the PTO to brainstorm ideas on a communication tool the school can use to notify students and parents about things going on in the school, homework, and other events happening.
  - i. PowerSchool is limited on what it can do. Parents are already inundated with various apps teachers are using. What's a different tool the school can use to reach the entire school community?
    - 1. Goal is to create more interaction with school staff and the school community. Any ideas, please email Mr. Woock.
- c. On behalf of Mrs. Wood, Mr. Woock has requested financial help with planning a special activity for the elementary grades for homecoming. The elementary grades will not be attending the homecoming pep rally in Washburn, Friday September 22. Instead, an activity is being planned for all kids in the elementary school. A possible activity would be cookie making/decorating.
  - i. Heidi Q. motioned to give \$200 to Mrs. Wood to help pay for an activity. Natasha S. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Mrs. Job is the new Lego League coach. She has requested assistance for the league start up fees. The cost is \$95 for the 2023 Lego kit and \$262 to register the group.
  - i. Natasha S. motioned to donate \$250 to the Lego League to help with the start up fees. Debbie J. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### 5) Officer's report

- a. President's report:

- i. Many thank you's received for the PTO donation of gift cards to the teacher prep party. Sounds like the party was successful.
- b. Vice-president's report-nothing new to report
- c. Treasurer's report-Erika E. reported a balance of \$3,303.40.

#### 6) Old Business

- a. Back to school night was a huge success. 300 hot dogs were served! Huge thanks to Emily Speten for the sidewalk chalk in front of the school, Jan H. for hosting the Miners Spirit gear swap (60 shirts were donated and swapped!), Autumn B. for the fun Jenga craft, Natasha S. for the photo booth and props, and all the PTO volunteers who set up, served dinner, and cleaned up.

#### 7) New Business

- a. Brooklyn Schaan, Wilton CREA (Central Region Education Association) would like to partner with PTO to help identify needs of the school community, set goals to try to improve family and community involvement and plan events.
  - i. Ms. Schaan has set up free coaching for parents with an emphasis on mental health. "Kids do well when parents are well." All coaching is confidential. Please help spread the word on this free coaching.
  - ii. October 27<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Schaan has planed a 'Spooktacular STEM Family Engagement Night.'
    - 1. 6:30-7:30 Gateway to Science will host this event and prepare a star viewing and 10 centers through a Mission 2 Mars Grant.
    - 2. Ms. Schaan has asked if PTO will serve a supper, snacks, or drinks during the event.
      - a. A signup genius will be created for volunteers to sign up to bring snacks, serve food, and set up/tear down.
  - iii. Ms. Schaan would also like to plan a few other events throughout the year with PTO. These events include a snack drive and Bingo for Books in Feb.
- b. Teacher conference meals are October 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. Amanda A. motioned to spend \$500 for teacher meals. Amy K. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  - ii. Autumn B. will contact Stacey at the County Line. She will recommend knoepla soup and sandwiches for one of the meals as the teachers really liked this in the past.
- c. Annual carnival event is tentatively planned for October.
  - i. To help plan this event a committee of PTO members has been created. Members include Autumn, Lindsey, Amy, Jenalee, Heather, Anne, Amanda
  - ii. Will ask the Lions if they will donate their inflatables again.
  - iii. Possible free will donation dinner?
- d. World Kindness Day is November 13
  - i. Currently looking for volunteers to begin planning. Will discuss more at October meeting.

- ii. Ideas include a kindness camp and creation of a kindness club.
- e. The PTO Meeting incentive idea worked great! The idea was for PTO to host a popsicle party for the class with the most parents at the meeting.
  - i. We had over 18 people at the September meeting. There was a tie in both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade with 6 moms representing each grade. Both classes will receive popsicles.
- f. Paul Schauer presented 'Christmas Kids Shop.'
  - i. December 6<sup>th</sup> kids 4 years of age thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be invited to the Memorial Hall to shop for Christmas gifts for their parents and siblings. Each child will get a personal shopper to help them pick out gifts and then gift wrap them.
  - ii. Kids will come home with a ticket asking who they want to buy gifts for. This ticket will then get returned to the school and be used for shopping.
  - iii. An event like this will need a lot of volunteers and donations. Specifically, December 5<sup>th</sup> volunteers are needed to help set up and organize. December 6<sup>th</sup> they will need personal shoppers to help the kids.
    - 1. We will discuss this event further at the next meeting. Monetary donation to this project will be discussed then also. Idea is to use the proceeds from the fall fundraiser (carnival) for Christmas Kids Shop.
    - 2. Besides monetary donations, they are in need of gifts, especially gifts for men like sports equipment. They would prefer gifts in original packaging but next to new items will work too.
      - a. 200 kids are anticipated for this event so will need approx. 2,000 gifts.

8) Next meeting:

- a. October 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 in the school cafeteria.

9) Meeting adjourned by President Anne Earsley.