

Mohawk Elementary PTO minutes from November 28, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Katie Ruzala

Attendance:

Board Members – Courtney Hannah, Ashleigh Balsamo, Marie Laskowski, Michelle Schmidberger, Katie Ruzala, Katie Fohey, Jill Talant, Julie Hasse, Stephanie Burkart, Nicole Milam, Ashley Fruciano

Staff members – Andrea Verellen, Mrs. Gielegam

Parents – Kristina O’Halloran, Traci Bowman, Amber Clark, Nicole Rowley, Jeff Talant

Principal’s report:

- Collecting gift cards for giving tree
- Jonathan Rand is coming 12/7
 - A Student won this assembly at MISD to have him come to our school.

Teacher’s Report:

- Mrs Gielegam - Thank you for helping sponsor the bus to Lansing.
- Mrs Gielegam questioned why teachers are picking volunteers.
 - Jeannette told the room parent coordinators this is how it needs to be.
 - There were issues with district - Parents are copying their background check link and sending it to friends. The district is getting inundated with requests for background checks for people who have not been approved to volunteer.
 - The teacher will submit the list to Jeannette to send out background check links.
 - Some teachers complained room parents were choosing their friends, so it should be up to them.
 - Other teachers don’t want to pick.
 - Ms Verellen will discuss with the staff at their staff meeting tomorrow.

Officer Reports:

President’s Report-

- Katie Ruzala approved minutes from October 2023. Seconded by Ashleigh.

Treasurer’s Report- Statements read by Michelle Schmidberger

- Bank Statement through the end of Oct: Checking \$25,592.68
- Savings \$5.

Parent Concerns:

- Field trips – people have been asking if all grades will have field trips
 - Field trips are optional. Teachers have to plan it. They can go whenever they want to.
 - They like to have field trips connected to the curriculum.
 - The Tigers field trip for 5th grade last year was too chaotic and will likely not happen again.

- Parents have heard rumors that field trips are being cancelled. Stemming from them not going to Sponge Bob at CVS.
 - Ms Verellen has not cancelled any.
 - Ms Verellen wants them to go to Mama Mia at Dakota later this year.
 - The busses actually showed up at Mohawk to take the kids to Sponge Bob, but were sent to Ojibwa as the trip was canceled.

Committee Reports:

- Art to Remember – orders in by November. To be delivered by Christmas.
 - Build a Buddy Event was a big success. Made about \$862
 - Santa Shop 12/4-12/6. Makeup day 12/7.
 - A Night with Mr. and Mrs. Clause 12/15. Make ornaments and have hot chocolate
 - Chuck E Cheese 12/8.
 - Chuck is not allowed back at the school again because kids were jumping on him, and Mrs. Verellen said dismissal was chaos.
 - Made \$218.08.
 - New Rink 12/4 6-8pm
 - Scoop and Twist – Elf Packages. They sell pint of icecream and color changing spoon with a note from your elf, or the north pole. Box comes with 2 pints. Bag comes with 1. Schedule for date and time you want to pick it up. Link is public - Must write Mohawk Elementary on the Comments. We are part of a pilot program.
 - Order form will go live this week. 12/1-12/22. They sell out quickly.
- 2024
- Bingo Night 1/26. Parents and kids. Mohawk students only. 5 games. Prizes are candy bars.
 - Penny Wars to run for a week in January.
 - Ms Verellen said this is too chaotic and asked us to cancel it. She doesn't like the "war" aspect. It made it too competitive. The teachers don't like it either.
 - This money has already been allocated in our budget, so if we don't raise what we estimated, other items will not have the appropriate funds. Ms Verellen is ok with this.
 - PTO board has tabled this as we need to adjust the budget to make up for the loss of this fundraiser.
 - Daddy daughter dance 2/2 at Shelby Gardens.
 - Mother Son night 3/6 at Dave and Busters.
 - Bike to school is in Spring.
 - Little Caesars pizza in spring.
 - Scholastic Books May/June.
 - Read a thon March. 2-3 weeks long.
 - Buddies Restaurant Night March 12th.
 - We need 2 more Bubba's nights for them to donate to staff appreciation.
 - Staff Appreciation May 1st or 2nd week.
 - Muffins with Mom in May 2024.
 - Donuts With Dad in June 2024.
 - Mom to Mom March or April.
 - Ms Verellen does not want it inside the school because she does not like strangers in the school.
 - Chuck E Cheese days 1/23 3-9pm, 3/13 11-9pm (Half Day)
 - Cutting Edge Open Gym Saturdays 1/13, 2/17, 3/30, 5/18 2-4

- \$15 for 2 hours. Mohawk makes 50%.
- Field Day Fun Day in June.

Open discussions:

- Voted to purchase a new mascot costume. Unanimously approved budget \$600.
- Watch Dogs is lunch time only now because not enough teachers want them in the classroom.

Next Meeting is January 16 @ 7:00 p.m. at Mohawk Elementary.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm

Minutes compiled by Jill Talant PTO Secretary