

Mohawk Elementary PTO minutes from February 6, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Katie Ruzala

Attendance:

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

Staff members – Andrea Verellen, Mrs. Gendernelle, Mrs. Sheridan, Ms. Dab, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. Berry, Mr Middleton, Ms. Bruce

Parents – Nicole Goike, Amber Clark

Principal's report:

- 100th day of school Friday
- 4th Graders doing NAEP testing. Kids were randomly selected.
- Next Friday half day
- The following Tues 2/27 no school because it's voting day – primaries.
- Reading month in March – Reading is sweet theme.
- Ms. Verellen is holding off until April to do her annual office fundraiser – Morley candy.

Teacher's Report:

- Mrs. Gendernelle – doing everything they can to make things go smoothly for the kids. She has some concerns about how supplies are done. Will discuss later.
- Mrs. Sheridan – 5th graders do rockets, 3rd graders to kites. 77 5th graders – rockets \$5 /\$3 engine. \$652.96 total for rockets. Kites – 85 3rd graders. \$4.20/student \$357. Total \$1,009.90.
 - Daddy daughter and santa shop made more than budgeted for, so no adjustments need to be made. Only \$400 needs to be made up right now. Michelle will get back to her by Friday.
 - Voted to give Mrs. Sheridan the funds for her projects if the money is there.
 - Approved Unanimously.
- Mrs. Kelly – Kindergarten is going to CMPL in March for a field trip. Touring the library and getting library cards.

Officer Reports:

President's Report-

- Katie Ruzala approved minutes from January 2024. Seconded by Ashleigh Balsamo.

Treasurer's Report- Statements read by Treasurer, Michelle Schmidberger

- Bank Statement through the end of Oct: Checking \$29,604.07
- Savings \$5.

Parent Concerns:

Committee Reports:

2024

- Santa Shop generated \$1,200 over what was budgeted.
- Daddy daughter dance generated \$1,300 over the \$500 that was budgeted.
- Mother Son night 3/6 at Dave and Busters.
- Bike to school is in Spring.
- Scholastic Books May/June.
- Read a thon March 4-20th long.
- Buddies Restaurant Night March 12th.
- Staff Appreciation May 6-10.
 - Can take donations from parents.
- Muffins with Mom is likely being combined with Donuts with Dad.
- Chuck E Cheese days 3/13 11-9pm (Half Day)
- The Rink day will change.
- Cutting Edge Open Gym Saturdays 2/17, 3/30, 5/18 2-4
 - \$15 for 2 hours. Mohawk makes 50%.
- Field Day Fun Day May 31st.
- Kroger ongoing

Open discussions:

- Room parent coordinator concerns about how parties are dictated.
 - Too hard to dictate specific snacks for each party.
 - We can't control equity of parties from class to class.
 - We can eliminate room parent coordinators and teachers can run the parties how they want.
 - Mrs. Gendernelle asked why they would want to eliminate their position. Ashleigh said because they cannot control how parents run their parties. We can take away allowing cash donations, but parents will run their parties how they want. They can't micromanage and don't want to be micromanaged. There should be more communication between the teachers and room parents.
 - Cash donations have been approved by the district. We can continue to collect donations, but no cash – only use Zelle, Venmo, or PayPal. The teachers shouldn't be involved.

- Want to do something for leap year. Frog hunt. Mr Eric can hide frogs throughout the library for kids to find and take home.
- Pi day was proposed instead of penny wars. Per class. Each grade against each other. Whoever raises the most, that class gets to pie their teacher. But readathon is also in March. Asked Mrs. Verellen to talk about it at the staff meeting. Maybe we can have a teacher sign up.
 - Mrs. Kelley suggested to have a tiered sign up – if you raise this much – this teacher gets pied. If you raise even more, this teacher gets pied. And only the teachers that sign up.
 - 3/14 is conferences so the actual pi-ing would have to be Friday 3/15.
- Or we can do teachers sleeping on the roof.
- April Fools – students can suggest April fools’ prank or joke and announce it on the PA.
 - This cannot be done as we are on break that day.
- Spring Fling dance – will likely be Friday, April 26 or May 10
- Spring Concert for 1st, 3rd, and 4th is on 4/16
- May 17 for Muffins with mom and donuts with dad combined. Possibly splitting into 2 shifts alphabetically.
 - Or do pizza with parents in the evening in the gym?
- The Rink fundraiser only made \$34. So, if we do another skate night, they will not make it a private event, it will be during open skate. The Rink wants to combine our next night into one. If it’s not a private event, then they charge \$5 per person (parents)
- Cutting edge we made \$585.
- Discussion on supply closet. We budgeted \$1,400 for teacher supplies, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, wipes, pencils. This year teachers requested white boards and ear buds. We are down to \$358.50 in that fund for the rest of the year.
 - Teachers don’t want to have to fill out a form to grab a box of tissues when their kids need them now. It was dropped last month. We were told to do that by the office, but we have dropped that requirement.
 - Next year we should do tissues, pencils and wipes only in that fund.
 - Teachers should send out wish lists to parents. Parents will send in stuff that teachers need.
 - If specials teachers need stuff too, they should communicate that to parents. Mrs. Verellen will put that in the smore. Mrs. Sheridan has a wish list on the website.
 - The district does not supply the nurse with anything. So, she asks us. She is supposed to go to Mrs. Verellen. They go through a LOT of Band-Aids. Mr Middleton also goes through a lot of Band-Aids.
- 5th grade is doing TreeRunner for the field trip. Julie offered to help plan it. Ms. Dab will have to discuss this with the other 5th grade teachers.
- Ms. Verellen is starting to think about what 5th grade – pizza party?

Next Meeting is March 21st @ 4:00 p.m. at Mohawk Elementary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Minutes compiled by Jill Talant PTO Secretary