

## **Mohawk Elementary PTO minutes from September 19, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Katie Ruzala

### **Attendance:**

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

Staff members – Andrea Verellen, Lori Bruce, Kelly Gendernelle

Parents – Adeela Green, Brittani Strippel, Jennifer Smith, Traci Bowman, Jenna Vollbach, Kristi Dedenbach, Nicole Goike, Kristen T, Amber Clark, Heather Parks, Brittany Muth, Ryan Muth, Kari Yonkowski, Stephanie Green, Bill Ciaramitaro

### **Principal's report:**

- Thank you for your support with the new parking lot. Traffic study implemented new flow of traffic. Cones have been blocking off Iroquois parents from using our parking lot so we have room.
- Teachers are focusing on the science of learning. If interested in more, you can read Sold a Story.
- A consulting company - Schools Cubed is coming in to review our practices and work with leadership on how we can improve teaching and literacy.
- Please don't interrupt ELA time with appointments, if possible. Focusing heavily on reading this year.
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders going to Lansing October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Make sure you have a PaySchools account as this is how you pay for all field trips.

### **Teacher's Report:**

- Mrs. Gendernelle said the kids enjoy being back in class. The year is off to a good start. Teachers are working hard to make it a good learning year.

### **Officer Reports:**

#### **President's Report-**

- Katie Ruzala approved minutes from May 2023. Seconded by Katie Fohey.

#### **Treasurer's Report-** Statements read by Michelle Schmidberger

- Bank Statement through the end of August: Savings \$14,442.13. Checking \$5.
- Went through yearly budget line by line.
- Teachers have to submit for approval what they are purchasing.
- Remove Sara Musayeb from bank account and add Katie Fohey. Voted unanimously in favor.
- Voted to change the budget for Bingo event. Courtney wants it to be a family fun night rather than fundraiser. Decreasing revenue from Bingo by \$500. And increasing budget in family fun night by \$500. Voted unanimously in favor.
- Voted to move \$1,000 from Previously committed small project funds to increase Fall Fest budget to \$2,000. Voted unanimously in favor.

### **Parent Concerns:**

- Parking lots have one ways now. We must follow the arrows in the parking lot. The staff tries to move the cones once school starts.

- Can the schools put a bench up the hill by Iroquois for the kids to wait since they are not allowed to wait at the elementary school? Per Ms. Verellen that's an Iroquois issue. But they will discuss it.
- Bussing issues. Is this time change permanent? Yes.
- Ms. Verellen made a seating chart for the buses because kids are complaining they don't have a seat.
- Dismissal time has changed due to too many parents standing and blocking the path to the bus. Bussers used to be released first. Now parent pick up is first to clear the way for the bussers. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders should be dismissed with bussers, not parent pick up because they are at specials.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Scoop and Twist tomorrow 9/20
- Walk to school day Wednesday 10/4
- Tiger Trek is coming up on Wednesday 10/11. This is our biggest fundraiser.
  - Bowling event is Friday 10/13 for those who raise \$150 or more.
- Bubba's Night Wednesday 10/18
- Art to Remember – orders in by November. To be delivered by Christmas.
- Little Caesars Pizza kits runs October 9 – November 9.
- \*10/27 Family Fall Fest location TBD.
- Build a Buddy. Sign up by 10/6. Event 11/3.
- Santa Shop 12/4-12/6. Makeup day 12/7. Need Volunteers!
- A Night with Mr. and Mrs. Clause 12/15.
- Bingo Night 1/26. Parents and kids. Mohawk students only.
- Daddy daughter dance 2/2 at Shelby Gardens.
- 2024 January Penny Wars. Funds to possibly pay for a book vending machine.
- \*Mother Son night tentatively 3/1 at Dave and Busters.
- Bike to school is in Spring.
- Little Caesars pizza in spring.
- Read a thon March.
- Staff Appreciation May
- Muffins with Mom in May 2024.
- Donuts With Dad in June 2024.
- Field Day Fun Day in June.
- Kroger/Meijer ongoing fundraiser. Add Mohawk to your account with either store and we get a%.
- \*Kids Helping Kids \$5 to be donated to a charity. May change how we collect and participate.
- Extended spirit wear to 9/22 due to issues with the QR code.

### **Open discussions:**

- Possible Mom to Mom in the Spring, outside in the parking lot.
- Possible Jazzercise mom's night out in Mount Clemens at Jazzercise. Ashley F would teach the class.
- Possible End of the year dance for the whole school.
- Want to add a stuffed animal day to spirit week.
- \*Kids helping kids – instead of coloring a page a month, you could wear a hat on a designated day. Or every month, a kid could pay \$1 for a special spirit item. Still working out the details.
- \*Trunk or treat? Parents volunteered to chair it if that's the route we take this year. Katie is waiting on calls back from orchards on pricing before anything is decided.

○ We did Westview one year and Blakes last year. We want a change. The date will be Friday 10/27.

Thinking about Petting farm, cider and donuts, decorate a pumpkin; if cost effective.

- \*Mother Son night – thinking about doing at Dave and Busters. Our cost is \$30/pp with food. Discussed how to price it and if it should include food or not. Majority in favor of food.
- Daddy daughter dance is being opened up to 4 and up, not just Mohawk students.
- Mom Prom was discussed. Mom's only event. Nothing planned as of now.

Next Meeting is October 24 @ 7:00 p.m. at Mohawk Elementary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Minutes compiled by Jill Talant PTO Secretary