

PTA Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2016

The meeting started with 12 parents, both administrators, and Chris Traini as our staff rep.

President's Report

Holiday Bazaar – 28 vendors – it did well

We had a successful Skate Night and Sweet Frog event. Skate night made \$500 for November and December.

PTA has helped support 2 field trips – \$360 for 3rd grade to go to Peter Pan and \$330 for the in-house field trip from the Science Center for 2nd grade.

November minutes were approved.

Principal's Report - Dr. Varlack wanted to touch base with us about the conferences. Parents mentioned that they loved that we had the opportunity to meet with teachers other than the homeroom teacher. The older grades appreciated having the children there for the conference.

Staff Representative – The teachers very much appreciated the dinner during conferences! Thank you for the funds provided for the field trips as well! We have 2 new staff members.

Marci Spence – New media specialist

Tonya Turner – Special Ed Para-educator

In this week's Forerunner, there will be a link to a parent skills survey. This will be used in case of an emergency. We want to find out who in our community could be called on if needed.

Ms. Shanks discussed the COGAT test. Both 3rd and 5th grades are in the middle of this now. Most of the students were here to do it. A few will need to make it up.

MAP – Second MAP test will occur at the end of December and beginning of January.

A parent mentioned that it was appreciated that two teachers – Mrs. Walquist and Ms. Dwyer had late conferences to accommodate a parent's schedule. A question was raised about when kids are pulled out of class for Enrichment Seminars. Is it possible not to miss new Social Studies curriculum? Dr. Varlack responded that many factors go into deciding when students are pulled, and we do our best to pull at appropriate times, but sometimes students will miss an activity. With the departmentalization in fourth and fifth grades, the schedule considers Language Arts and Social Studies as one block.

A question was raised about whether or not we can bring blankets or pillows to school. Dr. Varlack responded that we are working with each team to walk through to see how to make our rooms safer and cleaner for the children and teachers. Teachers will be getting rid of things made with fabric in their rooms, including stuffed animals, pillows, and couches. It was made clear that this is an open communication between principal and community.

PTA County Delegate Report

Visit this site to learn more about the ideas for school start times.

<http://www.hcpss.org/news-posts/2016/12/school-start-times-community-forums-dec-7-14-21/>

Digital education policy is up for question. Why are we using non-HCPSS teacher for this?

3 new science standards are coming soon. Mrs. Shanks explained we are already integrating them.

Membership – cards will go out before break - Mrs. Walquist's 2nd grade and Mrs. Hayman's 4th grade class have the most members. The top grade was 2nd grade. They will have a pajama day on Friday.

Playground - Penny sent a stern email asking for the shade structure. It was supposed to be shipped on December the 2nd. Now we are hoping to put the poles in the ground this year and then put the shade structure up in the spring. We have the box of bolts!

Be Very Merry - back orders will be coming this week. It brought in about \$3900. We have a few more to distribute. Any ideas for fundraising next year? -

Maybe do a Boosterthon? – Jen met with Related Arts to discuss their participation. It would require a \$2000 deposit. A Boosterthon is an organization that comes and takes care of the whole thing. They start off with an assembly at the beginning of the week to get the kids charged up. Then they have 5 days of character building. Each day has a 12 minute lesson – 4 minutes of fitness, 4 minutes character study, and 4 minutes of a pep rally together. (Fulton and many other schools do this.) Then it culminates in a fun run, where the kids get pledges for running. A question was raised about if parents will send money online to a 3rd party company. You can do this, but you can also give a check or money directly to the PTA. There was also a question about insurance. Check it out at <https://www.boosterthon.com/>.

No more Kid Stuff – next year.

After School Activities – most classes will be ending soon.

Mad Science will do a make up this Friday.

Chess will go over to Jan. They would like to continue it.

Kidz Art was renewed.

School House Theater – December 16th. Free show. 7:00 We should advertise it. *101 Dalmatians Kids*

Spanish class kind of flopped. Only 7 kids were in the class. Some of us had a bad experience with this class in the past. Not sure about the behavior management.

Movie Night – doing online and paper registration together. We will send out another blast. It will be *The Secret Life of Pets* this Friday at 7.

Treasurer's Report

\$500 total made from Skate Nights.

Caba Grill - \$100.

Sweet Frog - \$150

\$819 was made from the Bazaar. Everyone loved the Greek Food.

We had miscellaneous office expenses, nothing major.

Federal taxes were filed on time.

This month we need to do state taxes.

Dad's Club – Sent a check to Washington Wizards. The tickets were sent Monday morning. Ed C. will get the tickets and send them out on Friday. The Wizards check that was sent to the wrong person is all worked out.

Spirit Wear –Shipment has come in and everything was distributed.

Holiday Shoppe is going on now. Pulling kids at recess. Could use some help! May not be able to do this next year, because of the time commitment. Perhaps at night. We should really discuss this later.

Directory is almost here.

Yearbook – Colleen and Amelia are handling it. On January 4th there will be candid photos in school. Penny will check in with them.

Box Tops – Lauren Giles said we will get \$1300 from Box Tops. Use Amazon Smile for the holiday.

Green Committee – Still hoping to partner with Hammond High. April 1st is our goal date to host a Green Day event. The high school will get the vendors and activities, but we host it and provide volunteers. Leigh String is working on this.

New Business -

Carnival – May 6 (Turn off the TV week is May 1 – May 7th)

Variety Show Date - Was not decided...

A parent suggested we set up a meeting for parents to meet with authorities about Cyber Bullying. Perhaps have kids in one room and parents in another room.

Next Meeting Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00.

