

PTP Minutes – September 2014
9/16/14

President Heather Azeltine brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. 27 parents and faculty were at the meeting.

Welcome/Introductions (Heather Azeltine):

Financial Report (Cinda Lohmann):

- Financials YTD have \$1332 in our account after August expenses have been posted.
- The fall fundraiser will happen/come in prior to any other expenses will occur.
- Financials for the special events at the bottom of the report are still under review and not accurate to date.
- Parent Q: Why no spring fundraiser? Last spring we were a test with The Chip Shoppe, and they did not select us to participate this year.
- Parent Q: Can families opt out of the fall fundraiser? There is no requirement for any student to participate in the fundraiser.
 - If someone wants to donate only and not sell items, they can do that. This year there is the ability to donate online through The Chip Shoppe as well. If donations do come in online, The Chip Shoppe will get a percentage of that donation.

Funding Requests (Tani Helgemoe):

- Claire Berg – additional school patrol supplies - \$572 – all students benefit
 - Motion to approve: 1st - Tom Wroblewski, 2nd - Jen Cole
 - Unanimous approval
- Teresa Matanich – Scholastic Reading Counts program rewards and prizes - \$254.05 - all 4th & 5th grade students
 - Motion to approve: 1st – Stacey Ferrell, 2nd – Shae Rodger
 - Unanimous approval
- Rachel Olson – two buses and healthy snack for cross country race Oct 15th at Akin Road Elementary at 9:30am – \$250 (\$150 for buses; \$100 for healthy snacks) - all 5th grade students (snacks would be for all Farmington elementary schools = @ 600 students)
 - Suggestion is to get water and snack donations from parents, other schools' PTPs and/or area businesses first
 - Motion to approve: 1st – Stef Carlson, 2nd – Tom Wroblewski
 - Unanimous approval

Principle Report/Discussion Topic (Kim Grengs):

- It's been a great start to the school year, especially in the lunch room. There was a lot of parent support this year.
- The fundraiser kick-off was yesterday. Thanks to Shae, Allison and Denise (from The Chip Shoppe).
- Fall NWEA testing began and will be two weeks
- Conferences are Oct 9th and 14th. Parents can sign up online.
- The theme for this school year continues with Choose Kind.
- 796 students as of today and we continue to grow. We have enough space and enough staff.
- Vicky Lippert was assigned as a TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) this year to assist due to the student size. It provides Mrs. Willhoite and Mrs. Grengs more time with students.
- We have such a great group of kids here!
- With the fundraiser we are going to create a rain garden.
- Parent comment: 3rd grade helpers with the kindergarteners has been wonderful.

Spirit Wear Report (Teresa Gibbs):

- Open House generated \$2167 in sales, with \$1192 in credit cards. This was the first time we were able to accept credit cards.
- New website: RVEsptp.org – can see items that are available for sale
 - Extra special thanks to Jen Cole's husband for building the website!!!
 - To post pictures or information on the website, for right now they will need to be sent to Jen Cole.

Student Directory/Volunteer Needs (Jen Cole):

- The volunteers for the first couple weeks of school have been very beneficial. We've had more than enough assistance.
- We need a Coordinator for PIE. Stef Carlson has it covered for Sept. What is PIE? Parents assisting teachers on special tasks that they need help with (stapling, sharpening pencils, laminating, cutting, etc.). Currently it's every Thursday morning. Parents can bring younger kids in as well. Whoever is the Coordinator can select the schedule, but it's encouraged to try to keep it somewhat consistent so that the teachers are aware of the schedule.
- This is Shae's last year leading the fall fundraiser, so we are looking for someone to coordinate it next year. They would be able to mirror Shae during this year's event to learn the process. Tom W. expressed a possible interest.
- Book Fair help and luncheon upcoming.
- The Student Directory is in progress. The deadline was last Sunday, but she is still receiving information. It should be sent to print within the next week or so.
- The Volunteer Directory is decent. Emails will be sent out as events come up.
- Cinda Current will take volunteers in her iNature classroom any time, especially with Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders. No need to even register – just show up! Here is the schedule:
 - 8:55-9:45AM - 4th or 5th grade
 - 9:50-10:40AM - 3rd or 5th grade
 - 10:45-11:35AM - 2nd or 1st grade (prep on Day 2)
 - 12:15-1:05PM - 1st grade (prep on Day 3)
 - 1:05-1:55PM - Kindergarten
 - 1:55-2:45PM - 2nd grade (prep on Day 1)

MN Safe & Supportive Schools Act, Tiger STAR (Stop, Think & Act Responsibly) Character Education Program, School Counseling Support at RVE (Kathy Willhoit):

- Farmington does already have a K-12 School Counseling program.
- Tiger STAR monthly themes with a daily phrase that goes along with the theme.
- Definition of bullying – it's important to educate students (and parents) on the definition of bullying, as well as not labeling students incorrectly as bullies.
- Program/education is for all students, as well as some small groups who need additional assistance to better learn how to handle mean behaviors.
- If there is anything the Mrs. Willhoit can assist with or needs to know about family changes, please contact her at (651) 460-1603.
- Kim: 33 staff volunteered their time over the summer to determine how we can create a culture of kindness.

Outdoor Learning/Rain Garden (Cinda Current):

- ***See attached presentation
- OWLS (Outdoor Wonder Learning Stations)
 - 1st one: next to the playground that was installed last spring
 - Next one: Rain Garden
 - There is a Soil & Water Conservation District that will fund 65% of it.
 - A rain garden is a garden that is dug down a bit and underneath it is mulch and different types of soil that will absorb the water from the roof runoff. The dry creek bed will absorb the water and keep the tar from the roof, instead of it going into the river. Any water that the plants don't use will go down into the ground, ridding the pollutants. The water that makes it to the river will be pollutant free.
 - We need 35% (\$1977.47) in the end, but need to fund the entire amount in the beginning and the Soil & Water Conservation District will reimburse us. We also need to provide approximately \$4000 for extra costs (re-sodding, stepping stones, bird feeders, bee poles, etc.).
 - Volunteer needs of families in early October to help get it set.

Other Topics (Heather Azeltine):

- Michelle Griffin: New families – sign up your Target card so that your percentage goes to RVE
 - Parent Q: Where does that money go? It goes into the schools agency fund (playground equipment, special ed bus, etc.).

Questions/Comments:

- Stacey Ferrell: Ideas to promote box tops to get them in timely so that we don't lose those funds?

- Post upcoming submission dates on the website so parents are aware.
- Classroom challenge to get them brought in.
- 10-spot challenge form to send home to students?
- Can PIE take the task over?
- If any parents have any other ideas, send to the Volunteer Coordinator and she will ensure Stacey receives.

Next PTP will be October 21st at 6:30PM. Hope to see you there!

Attachments:

- PTP Financials 2014-2015
- Rain Garden Presentation