

PTO Minutes

11/9/15

Purpose - to promote open communication and understanding between the parents and the staff of Castlewood Elementary School. Working together will enhance and maximize the education of every child while aiding them in reaching their highest potential.

In attendance: Jenn Hemen, Julie Kirwan, Becky Goens, Heidi Schooley, Angie Larson, Kristy Borer, Rochelle Rudebusch, Brandy Tesch, Heather Eide, Peggy Wittnebel, Traci Bass, Carrie Boyd

Minutes taken by: Brandy Tesch – Thank you!!!

Agenda -

1. Finances and office
 - a. Balance of existing account - \$3,848.72
 - i. Purchases – \$906.85
 - a. Paid ½ the cost of the K-12 Bullying Presentation \$750.00
 - b. Meals for teachers at conferences - \$156.85
 - ii. Funding – should we look at funding sources or are we feeling okay for a while?
 1. The group agreed that currently our funding is ok.
 - iii. Decide on a board – President, Vice President, Secretary (Brandy Tesch) & Treasurer - Still need a board
 - b. Updates since last meeting –
 - i. End of the Year Family Fun Night
 1. Had great attendance last year.
 2. Discussed some would enjoy to have activities added on this year after the meal for an end of the year event.
 - ii. Meals for Teachers on Conference nights
 1. Joy provided food for both nights for \$156.85
 2. Tracy Bass, Angie Larson & Rochelle Rudebusch made bars
 3. Teacher's appreciated the gesture & sent a thank you to PTO
 - iii. After school activities
 1. Homework room – Tried this last spring – no interest. Are we thinking we would like to try it again? New math curriculum...
 - a. Discussed if the teachers thought whether or not this would be beneficial.
 - i. Felt they would have difficult time knowing where their students are.
 - ii. Discussed students coming in at 7:50 for teachers to help further

- iii. Heather will send out a survey to parents to see if there may be any further interest in an after school homework room
 - iv. 1st Day School Supplies – worth doing again?
 - 1. Great feedback from PTO members
 - a. Great quality of supplies
 - b. Small complaint on quality of pencils but brand is known to be high quality
 - 2. Want to see us order a minimum of 100 to keep offering to School
 - 3. PTO decided, yes, would like to continue to offer. Heather will contact the company and submit commitment papers
 - c. Joy Bruinsma approached Heather this spring to purchase new die cuts (shapes) for school's machine. They would like to purchase some new ones/collections. Joy is writing grant to CEF for \$200; wondering if PTO would be willing to give an additional \$200?
 - i. PTO agreed to donate money requested.
 - d. School Improvement Committee – Any volunteers to be on the committee – Kristy Borer, Deb Mack, Deb McEldowney, and Heather will all be on the committee. We need a parent volunteer and board member as well.
 - i. Need to do a school improvement plan
 - ii. Need a parent to two to volunteer from parent standpoint as it is state mandated
 - e. Parent Involvement Policy – Julie Bartels, Rochelle Rudebusch, and Heather are on the committee. This is something we can work on throughout the year and have in place by spring for next school year.
 - i. It's a Title 1 parent involvement policy
 - ii. Needs to be updated to put in handbooks for next year
 - f. Share activities for American Education Week

Monday, November 16: Nationwide Kickoff Day

Across the country, schools will celebrate excellence in education by hosting kickoff events. The students will be creating cards for staff members. Students and staff will be participating in other activities as well.

Tuesday, November 17: Grandparents' Day

We will be hosting a "Goodies for Grandparents" event. We invite all grandparents to come to the school and enjoy breakfast goodies anytime between 7:40 and 8:05 am. If it is not possible for a grandparent to attend, a parent may come in their place.

Wednesday, November 18: Education Support Staff Day

Castlewood's bus drivers work hard to ensure student success by getting our students to school safely and ready to learn. We will be honoring their hard work by hosting a "Donuts for Drivers" event.

Thursday, November 19: Educator for a Day

Community members are welcome to contact the school or a teacher if they would like to come in and read a story to children. All staff will wear suspenders that day to show their "support"

for education.

Friday, November 20: Higher Education Day

All students (Grades PS - 12) and staff members are encouraged to wear a college shirt to celebrate and honor higher education. All students will also get together that afternoon to "Hug the School".

- i. Discussed the Goodie's for Grandparents day
 - 1. Was a typo in the dates in newsletter/paper
 - 2. Heather will resend letter due to low response
- g. Will math night be held again?
 - i. Yes.
 - ii. Any thoughts on when?
 - 1. In the spring after basketball and before track – Late March
- h. Day before Christmas – Service Projects
 - i. This year would like to pair a high school class member with an elementary class member
 - ii. Be thinking of ideas for these projects and share them with Heather
 - iii. Soul Hope was mentioned as a possible project.
 - 1. Kids in another country get chiggers badly on the bottoms of their feet; can take old jeans and turn them into shoes. May be easier for older classes to handle.
 - iv. PACH program?
 - 1. Separate program
 - 2. Our school will be packing Tuesday 11/17 right after school in the Hamlin lunchroom area
 - a. Start packing right at 4:00 and be done by 6:30; can come later if need to.
 - 3. It's a great teachable moment for the kids for any parents interested
 - 4. Packing 750 bags (12 weeks' worth)
 - 5. Last year took about 1.5 hours
 - v. Sing for nursing home?
 - 1. Some of the classes will be singing

Next meeting will be held Thursday, January 7th at 5:00 pm.

If you cannot be there at 5:00 you are welcome to come late.