

Glebe PTA Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2011

Present: Shelley Yerdon, Beth Connelie, Virginia D'Amore, Eric Houser, Misty Houser, Jamie Tallon, Kim Kortz, Dan Carroll, Lisa Beth Adams, Trisha Bobowski, Katrin Petrelia, Kathy Perito, Wendy Pedersen, Paula Salatel, Chris Gerlach, Kim Preston, Bobbi Jo Haverly, Melissa Feinour, Janette Pedatella, Lisa Wager, Sandy Vosburgh

Co President (Eric Houser):

- Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The October PTA meeting minutes were approved by Paula Salatel, seconded by Kathy Perito.

Treasurer's Report (Bobbi Jo Haverly):

- Balance looks great, but there are outstanding items unpaid.
- The Panther Prowl made \$1000 less than projected. Fonda's PTA will be paid as a co-sponsor of the event.
- Bobbi Jo will gather the information and provide a number, in dollars, of surplus money so we can make more sensible spending decisions.
- Motion to accept by Kim Kortz, seconded by Virginia D'Amore

Correspondence (Jamie Tallon):

- Thank you for the goodie bag for the Panther Prowl from Maddy Connelie
- Thank you for the support at their Open House from Warren Street PTA
- Thank you for the reimbursement for teaching materials from Pat Robinson
- Thank you for the supplies and post-flooding support from Fonda Principal Tom Ciaccio

Fundraising Report (Kim Kortz):

- The hot dog cookout made roughly \$500.
- The mulch sale has netted \$300, up from the \$200 in previous years. Puthaven has been wonderful to work with.
- Nothing else is slated until 2012.

Central Council (Misty Houser):

- Amy, the regional director, discussed what PTAs should and shouldn't be doing.
- There was also preliminary consolidation discussion, and PTA to PTO discussion.
- Dan Carroll asked for thoughts on consolidation of PTAs.
- Comments on the consolidation included: dues cost savings, concerns about the three elementary schools having different needs, consideration of a joint PTA with subcommittees, noting we will have to work together if the Princeton Plan happens, and concerns about losing our own identity as Glebe Street Elementary School.

Teacher Representatives (Sandy Vosburgh, Lisa Wager):

- Nothing to report.
- Eric Houser thanked Mrs. Wager for collecting PTA memberships from the faculty.
- Bobbi Jo Haverly asked Mrs. Wager to remind teachers that the \$50 for school supplies needs to be spent as soon as possible.

Principal's Report (Dan Carroll):

- Acknowledged and appreciated all of the volunteers during school lunch week and the Ned Show
- Received a lot of positive feedback for the Veteran's Day assembly reception and thanked the PTA for their support.

SDM (Dan Carroll):

- The second meeting of this school year was held today
- SDM has the following events tentatively scheduled: Health and Wellness Day (March 9th) and a Cooking Challenge (June 14th)
- A goal in the Communication realm, with a focus on bullying, led to the recent invitation of Sgt. Gilbo's for his Cyberbullying presentation. Jan Pedatella questioned if the presentation addressed both parents and children. Dan confirmed the presentation was open to both parents and students.
- A new goal of Media Message and Body Language (and what's appropriate for children to wear) was set. The committee agrees it would be valuable to bring someone in to discuss.
- HFM Prevention Council provides a "Too Good for Violence" bullying prevention program. The SDM committee would like to see if they would host a family night.

Audit Committee Report (Beth Connelie):

- The audit was completed and there are no major discrepancies.
- Thanked Kim Kortz for her excellent job as treasurer.
- The committee recommends that receipts must accompany **all** reimbursement forms.
- The committee also recommends that a policy needs to be enforced to prevent repeat offenders of those writing checks with insufficient funds.

Accelerated Reader (Virginia D'Amore):

- The first night, themed as North America night, had over 40 children attend.
- Thanked Beth Connelie for cutting out the shapes for the AR wall.
- Next AR night is November 30th. The theme will be South America.

Lunch With the Principal (Kathy Perito):

- Dan thanked Mrs. Perito for her help with Lunch with the Principal
- The lunches went well and the kids are enjoying the lunches.
- Is taking suggestions and trying to mix things up with the pizza accompaniments (such as apples, veggies, chips)
- Requests that once a child has had the Lunch with the Principal opportunity, they are not allowed to participate again that year.
- Dan confirmed that SDM committee decided the child with the most points can attend every month, regardless if they attended before.

- Kathy's concern is that students feel the same children are being recipients. She noted that children are getting frustrated when the same children are repetitiously being rewarded.
- Dan encourages parents and children who are struggling with this decision and practice to speak with him.
- Katrin Petrelia requested clarification on the class reward. Dan clarified that the class reward is the "community paws" program, where the emphasis is that the good deeds of the class benefit the greater good. When the "paw" comes from outside the classroom, it becomes a "community paw", not a Panther Point.
- Melissa Feinour said she'd like Kathy's point reviewed if children are looking at this as a negative program.
- Kim Preston suggested if more feedback is needed on whether or not the program is having negative effects, we may want to ask the teachers for input.

Reflections (Jamie Tallon):

- Showcase is November 30th
- Jamie will turn the projects and consent forms over to Fonda on December 1st.
- If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact Jamie.
- Paula Salatel thanked Jamie for taking over the Reflections chair position.

Holiday Parade Committee (Virginia D'Amore):

- Volunteers are in place for Wed and Thursday for decorating
- Has no driver or generator yet for the evening of the parade
- Glebe's interpretation: Epcot International, Read Around the World
- 6th grade students drew international flags and the flags will be colored tomorrow

Read-A-Lot-A-Thon Committee (Dan):

- A committee was formed to spend the money raised during last year's RALAT. The money was to be directed towards AR and literacy materials.
- Dan received a message from BOCES Instructional Resource Center that stated if we're planning on building our collection of common core books, BOCES will buy them for us.
- Dan researched the AR Enterprise version. This version gives students unlimited access to all of the AR tests available (roughly 140,000). Currently tests are purchased individually or in bundles. This version is online and can be accessed at home. The subscription is good for the 12 month calendar year, which would help promote summer reading. The cost is within the committee's capabilities (to upgrade to online and pay for the subscriptions for the first year).
- Currently the district gives the school several hundred dollars each year for literacy. Dan requested assurance that the school would still receive it if we had this program. He was given that assurance and also confirmed the network has the technical capabilities.
- The price quoted for the upgrade is \$1000 upfront for the technical aspects and training on the system.
- The first year cost would be \$1000 for the upgrade plus \$4.25 per child for the 12 month subscription, pro-rated (about \$2100).
- Future Cost would be about \$1700 per year. This includes \$4.25 per student for

the yearly subscription plus a hosting fee of close to \$400. The hosting fee would store our information and also includes service and maintenance.

- Paula Salatel questioned if all three elementary schools participated, would it qualify for an Arts and Education reimbursement? Dan said A&E programs have been discontinued.
- Melissa Feinour motioned to move forward subject to the committee's approval. Kim Kortz seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Upcoming:

Picture retakes: Wednesday, November 16th.

Early dismissal: Thursday November 17th at 12:05pm (due to parent/teacher conferences)

Emergency release drill: Tuesday, November 22 at 2:55pm

No school: November 23rd, 24th and 25th (due to Thanksgiving recess)

Central Council: Tuesday, November 29th

AR Night: Wednesday, November 30th

- South America theme

Lunch with the Principal: Friday, December 2nd

Scholastic Book Fair: December 7th-9th

- Chris Gerlach is set with volunteers but is waiting to connect with Mrs. Kortz for Scholastic training

Santa's Workshop: Friday, December 9th at 6:30pm-8pm

- Virginia D'Amore is chairperson
- Craft volunteers needed

Next PTA meeting: Monday, December 12th at 6:30pm

Comments and Questions pertaining to PTA:

- The school store is up and running. It will be held every other Wednesday. Thank you to Paula Salatel for running the store last week.
- The Wiis are connected. The weather has been great, so students have been fortunate to have outside recess often.
- Mr. Ritter is providing reading and math exercises via music on Wednesday mornings. Participation is by grade level and by invitation.
- Kim Kortz commented on the excitement of the Math Olympiad her son has and extends thanks for offering a great program.
- Chris Gerlach inquired about a needy family wish list.
- Katrin Petrelia inquired whether the Veteran's Day Assembly was a PTA event or school function. She acknowledged her daughter was moved by the presentation. Dan Carroll advised that the school plans it and different classes prepare for the assembly.
- Kathy Perito questioned if there are maintenance funds for the playground and inquired who maintains the playground. Her concern is the wood chips by the swings are deep for the younger children. Dan informed her the school district's Buildings and Grounds maintain the playground.
- A brief discussion was held regarding a possible Lego Robotics club. The idea behind the project is that a challenge is posed to a team and students need to figure out a solution. A parent has approached Dan Carroll with the idea and

offered to coach the club. It involves a significant initial investment. Other parents are welcome to come forward with suggestions for new clubs as well.

At 8:22 pm, Jamie Tallon motioned to close the meeting.