

GRAND PRAIRIE PTO MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2008

In attendance: Lisa Burrows, Jen Donnell, Lisa Lydon, Michelle White, Natalie Zographos, Jen Lotarski, Jen Babec, Matt Becker, Pam Sinram, Anna Fagan, Dena Berry, Betsey Vinson, Candace O'Brien, Kim Radaker, Eva Garcia, Tina Gieseke, Chris Witkowski, Bernadette Pankhurst, Janan Szurek, Denise Worland, Jana Hlade, Dawn Kasper, Laura Goluszka, Peggy Staszak, Kim Gore, Shannon Capps, Jen Starkman, Monique Doolittle, Jill Eskra

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Co-President Lisa Burrows.

Minutes from the September meeting were presented and were approved with a motion by Jen Babec, seconded by Jen Lotarski.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was presented and was approved with a motion by Monique Doolittle, seconded by Dawn Kasper.

-Jen Starkman and Laura Klima spoke about the Camping Safari, to be held Thursday 10/23. There will be 6 different literacy workshops for adults, and tents with stories, snacks, and crafts set up for kids. Staley the Bear will be there, and there will be giveaways for parents. This event is being funded by the Foundation For Excellence, which the PTO contributes to by donating a gift basket for their silent auction in spring. Kids under school age are welcome, but will have separate activities set up in the classroom their parent will be in.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

-A majority vote was received to give \$250 to each of two new schools parent/teacher organizations in the district, Bess Eichelberger and Plainfield East H.S., with a motion to approve by Eva Garcia, seconded by Peggy Staszak.

-Thank you cards were received from Melissa Boggs for PTO's baby gift, and from Cyndi Miller for flowers sent by PTO upon her mother's passing.

-Please remember to continue sending in Dominick's receipts if you haven't registered a Fresh Values card number with Jen Donnell.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

-Janan reported that \$279 was received through proceeds from Target, and donated to the Media Center.

-The grounds of the school are NOT bug sprayed.

-Sound system- quotes were received; Janan and Lynn will be meeting with district staff and the installation company to clarify specifics.

-Lynn reported that per inspection, the risers in our school are structurally sound. The cost of adding backs to GP's risers is \$2,282. The cost of new risers with backs would be \$10,000.

-Assemblies for this year, so far, will be Magic of Manners for 1st & 2nd grades, and Wheel of Wisdom.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-SPIRITWEAR- Jen Babec displayed new items available to order now, forms will be sent home at a later date.

- LANDSCAPING- Michelle reported that mulch day took approximately 1 1/2 hours of work last Saturday- thanks to all who helped!
- FAMILY NIGHT OUT- Jen Lotarski reported that \$270 was received from Michael's Pizza night. Upcoming dates are: 10/7- Cold Stone, 3:30-8:30, bring flyers, volunteers needed
10/16- Arby's on Rt. 59- all day- 15% before tax to GP, bring flyers.
November will be Babe's Hot Dogs, with a 15% return to GP, and a visit from Mr. Hot Dog Man.
- MARKET DAY- \$250 will be allocated from December's sale to GP Student Council's needy family fund- motion by Kim Gore, seconded by Shannon Capps.

OLD BUSINESS

- FALL FUNDRAISER- \$16,275.65 was the gross profit, and GP will receive between 40-50% of that. Pick up is scheduled for Nov.13 (same day as Market Day)- notes to be sent home.
- ROOM PARTIES- Clarification was made regarding Leads and Room Reps- Leads contact volunteers. Leads and Room Reps work together with teachers to determine the number of volunteers needed for parties (typically 6-8). Every parent that signed up will get to attend at least 1 party- some may be able to attend more if there is a lack of volunteers. Leads and Room Reps will be notified of any changes in volunteers. In addition, a list of volunteers will be kept for parents who would be willing to volunteer in a class that is not their child's. Additional info is also in folders, like room party outlines, surveys for older classes, etc.
- Janan will try to make connect-ed messages prior to Family Fun Nights.
- HOMECOMING- Denise Worland reported that everything went well, and the float turned out great! GP is required to enter a float in next year's parade. Dawn Kasper suggested having 2 chairs to coordinate this committee. Betsey Vinson suggested to contact Alumni, as some are able to assist with storing/loaning hayracks.

NEW BUSINESS

- BLOOD DRIVE- Saturday 10/25 at GP gym
- POP TABS- Girl Scouts are handling the drive- proceeds to be given to Taylor Babec. See Jenni Yimet or Jana Hlade with any questions.
- CUB SCOUTS- Holiday wreaths/centerpieces are for sale, flyers were distributed.
- TIMBER RIDGE PTO- Is inviting their 3 feeder elementary schools to attend a Parent info night- Bridging the Digital Divide- part of the I Safe program. This important informational evening addresses internet safety, including MySpace, Facebook, and texting. It will be held 10/15 from 6-7:30 p.m., and parents who attend will also receive supplemental packets of info. Due to it's nature, this is an adult-only presentation.
- Jen Starkman is looking for donations of any artificial flowers/plants for the Media Center.
- BOOK FAIR- 1 for Books raised \$970- Scholastic will donate that dollar amount to GP in books, and the same amount to their charitable organization. It also counts toward the total sales for our school. Eva will be calling volunteers, many needed for family night. Kids/teacher preview is 10/17. Peggy suggested teachers donate their planning time to help, in exchange for a book from the fair. GP is competing for Scholastic's Grand Prize, a visit from author Jeff Kinney.
- PERFECT ATTENDANCE- Janan suggested quarterly awards, plastic "dog tags" on a key chain, that would change each quarter. (School will allow for religious absences.) Awards for approximately 172 students per quarter would be about \$500. Majority approved, with a motion by Kim Gore, seconded by Pam Sinram.
- A reminder that Halloween costumes cannot have weapons or fake blood. Masks are allowed. A.M. Kindergarten parade is at 10:15, main parade is at 1:45. Room parties are at 2:15. Parents are

welcome to volunteer for other "office" duties- license scanning, check-in, etc. In the event of rain, parents can view parade in the gym.

-BAKE SALE- Committee has been turned over to Student Council, with a motion by Lynn Cihlar, seconded by Eva Garcia.

-Book Fair committee needs to borrow 4 umbrella bases-see Eva or Kelly

-Theme for 3rd grade Spring musical is Super Heroes- hold on to those costumes!!

-Concern was expressed about the statewide health policy. Some kids are taking it too literally, and are paranoid about eating too much and wanting to exercise in excess. Mr. Becker stated that moderation and balance are being stressed in classes. Kelly Carl offered to bring info she found on positive self-esteem.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with a motion by Jen Babec, seconded by Jana Hlade.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Zographos, PTO Secretary