

GRAND PRAIRIE PTO MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

In attendance: Lisa Burrows, Jen Donnell, Lisa Lydon, Michelle White, Natalie Zographos, Kim Radaker, Tina Gieseke, Pam Sinram, Shannon Capps, Jill Eskra, Matt Becker, Jenn Leone, Dawn Kasper, Chrissy Feil, Theresa Saavedra, Cathy Wagnon, Liz Plewa, Donna Young, Jen Babec, Melissa Olson, Lynn Cihlar, Chris Witkowski, Nadine Parmenter, Carrie Dolbee, Stephanie Donahue, Jennifer Lotarski, Kelly Carl, Angela Kausch, Angela Ivey, Mary Plambeck, Monique Doolittle, Megan Sabella, Candace O'Brien, Mary Ellen Miller, Cassie Kohrt, Mary Scholp, Peggy Staszak, Jen Starkman, Nikole Austin, Renee Willis, Jodi Cavanaugh, Chris Ulreich, Laura Pyles

Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Co-President Lisa Burrows

Minutes from the June meeting were presented and were approved with a motion by Mary Scholp, seconded by Cassie Kohrt.

Minutes from the August meeting were presented and were approved with a motion by Theresa Saavedra, seconded by Nadine Parmenter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Was presented and was approved with a motion by Pam Sinram, seconded by Tina Gieseke.

-Jenn Leone asked for clarification on amount for invites sent to Kindergarten and new families- amount was put to a second executive vote and \$300 was approved in August.

- Lisa Lydon discussed receipt reimbursement forms/new receipt guidelines. Kelly Carl asked how book fair will be inventoried according to the new policy- it was stated that receipts over \$100 are to be brought to board members or staff members for signatures. Janan stated that this falls in line with the district guidelines they have to follow as well. Please contact the PTO board with any questions.

-PTO membership- as of 8/31- staff:34 families:78

A suggestion was made by Jen Starkman to re-send room party and membership sign-up sheets for those that may have missed them, or to put a reminder in the Gazette or PTO manager.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A revised 2008-09 budget was distributed to reflect changes/typos that were noted on the August budget sheet. The changes were: Committee Expenses: \$1650, Flowers and Gifts, \$2000, Misc. \$900. A majority approval was received, with a motion to approve by Dawn Kasper, seconded by Chrissy Feil.

-School Mall booklets will be sent out this week. For each completed booklet, Grand Prairie will receive \$2.25. Each child who brings in a completed booklet will also receive 2 small prizes and are enrolled in a raffle. Last year, this profited about \$1600 as a fundraiser. Lisa asked for a majority vote to redirect profits in the amount of \$1700 to pay for Weekly Readers* for grades 1-5. Anything profited over this amount will go into the general fund, and if the fundraiser comes up short PTO will still fund the entire amount. This passed by a majority vote, with a motion by Chris Ulreich, seconded by Kathy White. The amount raised will be known by 9/5/08. (*Weekly Reader is a non-fiction newspaper of current events for kids.) A question was raised after the vote regarding where the funds typically come from, and Janan stated that typically this is paid for out of the school's budget, but is in addition to actual curriculum materials.

-Thank yous were received from Julie Siegler and Kathy Cuculich for the flowers PTO sent to welcome their babies, from Kathy Woodin for the new recess games and CAPE breakfast, and from Laura Klima for PTO's sponsorship of the Ready, Set, Summer Reading celebration.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Janan announced that Juli Palmer had a baby girl on Sunday 8/31- Alexandra Grace
- Follow up on risers... archived minutes showed that in 1999 a stage/risers were purchased with Timber Ridge. Janan met with Mr. Bendes, principal of Timber Ridge, and they found that the stage was delivered to Timber Ridge, and that TR also purchased their own set of risers with backs in 2003, but there was no receipt or invoice for risers that were purchased in part by Grand Prairie. Lynn Cihlar and several parents voiced concern about Grand Prairie's risers having no backs, as several students have fainted in previous years. Lynn also expressed concern about the age of the risers, and their overall working condition. Janan felt that there was no immediate need for concern over the safety of the risers, that there are other precautions taken to ensure children aren't injured if they were to fall, but that perhaps we could start with having them inspected for safety and go from there. Nancy Hund stated that certain risers can be retrofitted with back railings, and that this should be looked into as well. Lynn and Janan will look into the cost of new risers, keeping in mind that these, as well as any other items purchased by the PTO for Grand Prairie become the property of the district. It was suggested that the district be approached about replacing the risers, as well. This issue is tabled until the October meeting pending further information.
- There were a few changes to the health policy in the student handbook. Parents are advised to use their best judgment with children who have vomited. It is no longer necessary to wait 24 hours to send children back to school if the vomiting seemed to be an isolated incident, or not accompanied by any other symptoms. Fevers- Children need to be fever free with no medications for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Reminder to please help by sending in healthy snacks. Birthday treats do not only have to be edible, several suggestions will be placed in Gazette.

TEACHER REPS

- Lynn Cihlar is looking for volunteers to assist on ABCE days with sectionals, to monitor children from walking unattended. A sign-up sheet was passed. No siblings or younger children are able to attend.
- Matt thanked the parents for sending in appropriate footwear for PE- everything is going well so far.

NEW BUSINESS

- SPIRITWEAR- Jen Babec discussed several specialty items that can be ordered; some are zippered hoodies for teachers, baby bibs, and "bling" pajamas.
- STUDENT COUNCIL- A majority approval was received, with a motion by Lynn Cihlar, seconded by Candace O'Brien, to dedicate \$350 to student council in exchange for them selling spiritwear 1 or 2 times a month during lunch hours.
- LANDSCAPING- Mulch day is set for Oct. 4, from 1-3 p.m.
- BOOKFAIR- There will be a loose change contest held in classrooms, proceeds will be turned into raffle prizes for family literacy night. Raffle prizes will be book fair items. This passed with a motion to approve by Jen Starkman, seconded by Jen Babec.
- The book fair dates are Oct. 20-24; the theme is "Safari".
- Jen Starkman spoke about Family Literacy Night- several workshops will be set up for parents to attend while students are hearing stories in tents, doing crafts, and visiting with Staley, the Chicago Bear's mascot. More info will be sent home regarding younger siblings attending, and also RSVP's to get an estimate of attendees. The book fair family night will be from 5:30-7:30, and the campout will be from 6:30-7:15.

FAMILY NIGHT OUT- In the process of finding local restaurants to work with for fundraising nights. Michael's Pizza nights are set up for Sept. 22-24. There are plans for Cold Stone, Culver's, Giordano's, and Haunted Trails already in the works. Any suggestions can be referred to Jennifer Lotarski.

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP- tabled for next month

ROOM PARTIES- This year has changed a bit. There will be room reps to co-ordinate, lead parents, and several other volunteers for each party. The room party tea will be held on 10/2 at 6 pm to go over more details.

OLD BUSINESS

SCHOOL GIFTS- 8 new 6' tables were purchased, over 120 new games, and several packages of underwear for Nurse Jenny were given.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL- 9/12 from 6-8, volunteers needed

SCHOOL SUPPLIES- went well with the exception of confusion with packaging of Kleenex- all boxes have been received, and overall with discounts and deadlines met, this profited a small amount back to the general fund.

BLOOD DRIVE- to be held in school gym on 10/25 from 9 - 1. Donna Young is co-ordinating this event.

FALL FUNDRAISER- Michelle went over several details; books will include jewelry and other miscellaneous items. It kicks off on Friday, 9/5. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be given for most items sold, and as a family bonus, Target gift cards* will be given at certain increments to families for combined sibling totals. A vote was taken to designate \$3000 of the profits to purchase maps and globes for some of the classrooms, more to be approved later pending funds received. This was approved with a motion by Pam Sinram, seconded by Carrie Dolbee. (*An executive vote was taken previously to support the gift card bonus.)

PROJECT GREENHOUSE- Nadine Parmenter is representing Grand Prairie as the liaison for the district's accelerated/gifted program. Please contact Nadine with any questions.

A reminder that all Fridays will be Grand Prairie Spirit days- wear GP's colors!

Remember to sign up all Dominick's fresh values cards to designate kickbacks to Grand Prairie.

Keep saving Nestle PureLife water labels!

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. with a motion by Carrie Dolbee, seconded by Chris Witkowski.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Zographos, PTO Secretary