

Defer PTO

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors and Officers

November 10, 2015 - Defer Elementary School

Attendance: Kim Rhodes, Christina Michaud, Mary Beth Coffey, Emily Summerfield, Aaron Oestreich, Kevin Ozar, Becca Ozar, Renee Palazzolo, Karen Sullivan, Janette High, Kelley McLean, Lindy Holloway, Kelly Warnick, Brooke Macuga. Minutes taken by Ryan Coffey.

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions:** Renee Palazzolo
- 2. Member Presentation/Request:** None
- 3. Review of May Minutes:** Ryan and Mary Beth Coffey
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Emily Summerfield
 - a. Review September & October Budget
 - b. September: starting balance of \$14,851.92, income of \$3,157.68, expenses of \$2,462.73, total reserve funds \$53,575.34. Motion to approve budget by Kevin Ozar, seconded by Aaron Oestreich, motion passed.
 - c. October starting balance of \$15,546.87, income of \$6,905.99, expenses of \$6556.24, total reserve funds \$53,925.09. Motion to approve budget by Becca Ozar, Ryan Coffey seconded, motion passed.
- 5. Vice President's Report:** Becca Ozar - PTO council meeting notes - Defer appears to have raised the most funds of the area school fun runs. A GP schools PTO had a family fun night at Learning Gizmos store in Warren and was well attended. Technology night for parents at was sponsored at Parcels to give the parents more understanding of the technology being used in the classroom. Donuts with Your Dragon will have gluten free donut available.
- 6. Committee Reports:**
 - a. Volunteers – Heather Weigand – Craft Fair - Amy Miller and Sarah Tenckinck are chairing, additional volunteers needed.
 - b. Fundraising – Aaron Oestreich
 - i. Fun Run Update – Raised \$16,837.98 total, including cash donations. Need for engagement and education with the teachers to facilitate the event. Trombly had an incentive of \$200 gift towards the classroom for fundraising. Teachers need a direct link to access fundraising information. Expenses for the run are approximately \$1,600 not including the company's 15% fee. The Fun Run created a great degree of participation and school spirit among the kids. Many thanks to Aaron Oestreich for running the event.
 - ii. Plans for next year – Discussion regarding if another Defer Fun Run should happen next year. Need for better communication next year and should show what the donations is being used for at Defer. Next Defer Fun Run needs to be a committee event. Motion by Oestreich to have a 2016 Defer Fun Run, second by Kevin Ozar, unanimous approval.

- c. Membership –Kevin Ozar – Directories should be available in several weeks. Issues with the electronic version, but it can be accessed via a mobile app or online in a web version.
- d. Hospitality – Kim Rhodes – No report
- e. Communications – Christina Michaud – Next Defer newsletter is Dec. 3, need all items for submission by Nov. 23.
- f. School Board Observer – Vacant (Brian Summerfield) – Last month the board approved the Superintendents goals of improving enrollment, special education, #ONE GP. #ONE GP is an effort to align all schools across the district in order to have a consistent learning experience regardless of what school the youth attends. The board added a state regulation related to the superintendents performance evaluation being partially based on district performance data. Grosse Pointe Schools had 300 national merit scholars from North and South High Schools. Kelley McLean will be taking over the school board observer position.

7. Teachers Report: Janette High – None

8. Principal's Report: Karen Sullivan –

- a. Conferences – Conferences are Wednesday evening and all day Thursday. Report cards go home in mid-December. Our aim is to have 100% attendance at conferences. Students will be sharing their Data Binders with families and students/parents will be working together to set goals. Our progress reports go home on Dec. 15th.
- b. Student Council Elections were last week. Eleven students nominated themselves to run for the four offices. All students were either 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders. Picture ballots were used. Our four officers are: Bella Combs - President; Sophia Martell – Vice President; Charlie Lemmen – Secretary; Bella Leonard – Treasurer.
- c. Our Students Council is meeting next week with a senior from GP South who will be working directly with our students on the solar lantern project. We are excited to be getting this underway.
- d. Our Holiday Concert is early this year – December 1st and 1st, 3rd, 5th, and our Choir will be performing. Our Student Council president and vice-president will be the hosts that evening.
- e. Homework Club is being funded through Title 1 this year and will begin next Monday, November 16th. It will run on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:40 – 4:30 each time. Chris Bergeron, Jane Nugent, and NHS students from South will be participating. The South students are coming for training with Mrs. Nugent on the math algorithms before starting the tutoring. Mrs. Russo will be joining us as well.
- f. Halloween afternoon our staff worked with trainers for both the chrome books and the nooks. Their use in the classroom is expanding every day. Staff also had a professional development day on Nov. 3rd. Over 100 classes were offered that day with approximately 98% being taught by GP staff. From our building classes were presented by Trish Gout, Nancy Eckert, Shelley Denison, and Suellen Lohr. This is an example of teachers teaching teachers.

- g. We are looking forward to the Craft Fair. The projects are on display in the showcase on the 2nd floor and each lunch hour I am featuring one project in the lunchroom.
- h. Thank you for the wonderful Halloween assembly. It was Doug Sheerer and he was very well received by staff and students alike.
- i. During the month of December we will enjoy assemblies given by our 5th Instrumental Students and the Pierce Orchestra.
- j. As part of the district's look at safety in our schools we are in the process of updating all classroom emergency bags and reviewing the everything we might need is available. In general, Defer's were in very good shape. One thing we have expanded to include is all the contact information for each child.
- k. Defer teachers will be starting Instructional Rounds during the next month. The district has set expectations that each building participate in 2 Instructional Rounds each year. Our first round will be internal. We plan to visit classrooms around 2 aspects – to look at something specific – math workshop, writing instruction or the grade above or below – in what we call vertical teams.
- l. The superintendent will be visiting Defer on Nov. 18th. He will spend the morning in classrooms and have lunch with the staff. He is visiting all buildings during November and December.
- m. Defer has a nomination for Distinguished Staff award. I believe the staff member will receive a letter tomorrow notifying them that they are being recognized for this honor.
- n. Defer receive a very generous gift of winter coats from the Rotary Club. We have notified families along with including information in the November newsletter. Any coats not distributed in the next couple of weeks will be shared then with other schools in the Detroit area that might need this help.
- o. Mrs. Mannino's 4/5 magnet class entered the U of M Dearborn Young Author festival. We have 4 students who won at this competition. Hanley Desmyter took 3rd place for 4th grade. Brody Lindsay was 2nd place in 4th grade and Logan Detweiler took 1st place for fifth grade. The Grand Prize winner was also from Defer. Congratulations to Ellie Summerfield for being the Grand Prize winner. The festival is this Saturday and all of the 4/5 students were invited to attend. The winners will be sharing their writing.
- p. Birthday books are a huge hit, kids love going to the office and getting to pick out their books.

9. President's Report: Renee Palazzolo

- a. **Staff Lunch** – Thursday, November 12th, 2015.

10. Old Business:

- a. Pumpkin Patch Update – Renee Palazzolo – Made \$174 from the pumpkin patch event, despite being a break even goal. This was due to a \$1 increase in the price of pumpkins to offset the hay bales and cornstalks and to avoid taking a loss as a result. The event needs a new coordinator for next year as well.

11. New Business:

- a. Book Fair – Mary Beth Coffey & Becca Ozar – Mistakenly announced in the newsletter that the books fair will be open at at the same time as the craft fair, which is incorrect. The book fair will only run the week of November 9-13.
- b. Craft Fair – Saturday Dec 5th from 9-1pm, volunteers are needed. Please contact Amy Miller or Sarah Tenckinck to help.
- c. Lunchtime Enrichment – Tracey Secco – Parents needed to volunteer for the program, please contact Tracy Secco if interested.

12. Member Comment - None

Adjourned at 8:15pm, next meeting: January 12, 2016