

DEFER PTO MEETING

November 1, 2016

Defer Library

7:00-9:30PM

Attendance: **Handwriting on sign-in sheet difficult to read; therefore, spelling may be incorrect*

Megan Beijin, Lisa Dougherty, Sara Havlik, Janette High, Lindy Holloway, Brooke Macuga, Sara Martin, Kelley McLean, Becca Ozar, Dani Raether, Kim Rhodes, Karen Sullivan, Emily Summerfield, Kelly Warnick, Heather Wiegand, Kelly Woolums, Theresa Zuerblis

School Board Candidates' Presentations:

Presentations were made by the following candidates: Kathlee Abke, Judy Gafa, George McMullen, Cindy Pangborn, Chris Profeta, Wendy Saigh, John Shook, Anne Vanker, and Biz Williamson

Questions:

Various questions were asked by those in attendance including the following:

- Why did some candidates not support the technology bill?
- Where do you see the role of technology in education?
- What are the most critical factors in re-establishing teacher salaries?
- How do the board members inform themselves about special education issues for students ages 3-26? How do you get all the facts?

*Notes from Presentation are available for review.

Break:

After school board presentations, a short break was had before general meeting resumed.

Introductions:

All in attendance made introductions.

Secretary Report:

Kelly Woolums & Jessica Kodanko

No October Minutes were available for review. Jessica will send them at a later date.

Treasurer's Report:

Emily Summerfield

No Treasurer's Report Given

Vice President's Report:

Heather Wiegand

No VP Report Given

Volunteer Report:

Brooke Macuga

No Volunteer Report Given

Fundraising Report: Kelly Warnick

- Fun Run Fundraising: Total Gross: Approx. \$20,000
- \$6488.16 in cash
- \$17,325.00 online donations (15% commission taken off online donations)
- Motion to take \$450 out of proceeds to deposit for next year's Fun Run to receive \$50 off and additional promotional bonuses. Emily Summerfield motioned and Becca Ozar seconded. Approved.
- Hungry Howies Fundraising was discussed. It was noted that this can be put promoted through other organizations but not the PTO as we promised the "one and done" Fun Run fundraiser.
- Proposal for Box Tops contest after Christmas
- Haunted Garage Update: 182 people showed up & \$692 raised. It was noted that we need to be careful not to push as this event as a "fundraiser" because we had the Fun Run "one and done" promise.

Membership Report: Lindy Holloway

- Young 5's T-Shirts arrived; they are tie-dye rainbow
- Directories are ordered. 160 will be delivered early next week and given to office for distribution

Hospitality Report: Kim Rhodes

- Outdoor Movie night was a success!

Communications Report: Sara Martin

- Pictures : We need to be careful with group photos because of privacy requests. If you don't see your pictures out there this might be the reason. A request was made to think details when taking photos such as a close up of one student or concept.
- Mrs. Sullivan communicated new district photo policy wherein photos need to be okayed at Parent Portal – linked to FERPA. The district is working on communication around this confusion. In the meantime, Defer parents can check with the office to see if they might accidentally be on the no photo list.
- Next Newsletter Deadline Monday November 28th

School Board Report: Kelley McLean

Highlights were offered including:

- Possible refinancing of outstanding debt might happen at beginning of next year
- Innovation program for HS students in which students create an idea for a product, create a portfolio, and apply for a patent.
- STEAM BOTS robotics program is up and running

Teacher Report: Janette High

- Thank you for Tuesday Treats brought in by PTO – the teachers really enjoy them.
- New memberships are in.

Principals Report: Karen Sullivan

1. The lunch today from Cabbage Patch for the super fund raisers was great! The students were served macaroni and cheese, chicken fingers, and tossed salad. It was enjoyed by all!
2. Halloween assembly, parade, and class parties were all wonderful. We had many parents and grandparents participating and Dr. Neihaus joined us for the morning as well.
3. Playground equipment has been ordered. We are being told that installation will occur yet this fall. I have spoken with Lisa Abby, the new director of finances, and she would love for the Defer PTO to share with the School Board the gift they are making on behalf of the Defer students.
4. Staff is working hard right now to implement some of the apps we now have available. The lower grades are in the process of beginning to implement Lexia and Storia. The upper grades are implementing iReady reading and Think Through Math.
5. We had a new student start last week in Kindergarten and we will have another new student starting at the end of the month in 5th grade. We are looking forward to hosting the District Open House on November 13th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm
6. Our First Robotic team of seven 5th grade girls will be competing on November 19th. I am working to have this team present to the School Board at the December meeting.
7. Finally, five of our students are being recognized for their writing by UM Dearborn. We have taken 1st place over all in the competition and this was done by Jet Miller and four other students have placed 1st or 2nd in both 4th and 5th grade.
8. A parent group has formed around Diversity. Some of our families participated last year. The next meeting will be in December and all are welcome.
9. Student Council officer elections are Monday, Nov. 7th.
10. Our January 10th meeting will be held at Maire so that parents get a chance to see a 21st Century classroom.
11. ADDED NOTE: Mrs. Sullivan went out of town to view the playground equipment and saw a joined playground piece that is the same as the one we ordered but it is lower to the ground & connected. The piece is the same price. A motion was made to purchase this joined piece. Motion was approved. Kelly volunteered to help out with a grand opening celebration where the 2 top fundraisers will be invited to cut the ribbon with the possibility of a plaque installation as well.

President's Report:

Becca Ozar

No Report Given.

Old Business / New Business:

- Playground Equipment – need extra \$500 for “relocation,” Lindy Holloway motioned to approve. Kelley McLean seconded motion. Approved.
- Teacher Treats sign-up genius will go out to the board soon
- Book Fair advertising will go up mid November – starts day of Holiday Craft Fair 12/3/16
- Email will be sent to the teachers for specific link to Scholastic catalog
- Chrome Books: At the December meeting we need to vote on chrome books and decide if we purchase them from the district or from Jessica Kodanko’s resource (if more affordable). It was noted that if we purchase them through the district then they are serviced through the district. Up to \$12,500 is budgeted to buy up to 23 ipads & 30 cases for grades Kn, 1 & 2. It was stressed that it is good publicity to point out that we spent our Fun Run money on i-pods and cases. Emily Summerfield motioned and Lindy Holloway approved.
- Next Meeting: December 14, 2016 at the Cadieux Café for feather bowling fun.
- Craft Fair order forms are coming out soon - check out the display in the hallway. The PTO is offering a free pinecone ornament in honor of the book Nuts To You and free origami ornament table.
- The Pupmkin Patch was a wonderful success this year; we sold out in 20 minutes. Next year we need more volunteers to unload the pumpkins.
- Karen Sullivan noted that Defer’s back door welcoming decorative pot donated and decorated each season by Theresa Zuerblis was knocked over and broken sometime last week. Consideration may be made to purchasing a new one.
- Lunchtime enrichment is coming soon.