

Grace Abbott Elementary PTO Meeting Tuesday, October 4th 2016

Board Members: Jaime Diamond, President; Josh Kitchen, Treasurer; Christy Kleffman, Secretary; Alyssa Mason, President Elect

- **Welcome/ Introduction of Board Members and meeting attendees:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M.
- **Review September Meeting Minutes:** Joy Campbell motioned to approve the minutes. Laura Hensley seconded the motion. The September minutes were approved.
- **Principal Report:** Dr. Chaussee reported that Abbott has completed the first round of MAP testing. Parents will see these results at October conferences. The new math series has rolled out at the school, and is going well.
- **Secretary Report:** Committee chairs should email Christy Kleffman if you need to reserve a room at Abbott for your event at: crmk77@cox.net
- **Treasurer Report**
 - **Youth Frontiers Scholarship:** The PTO received a \$1000 scholarship from the Youth Frontiers foundation to help pay for the cost of the retreat. This amount was adjusted in the budget for the 2017 retreat.
 - **Visa Gift Cards:** We received a \$100 and a \$25 gift card from Target because they discontinued the Target Rewards program. This closes out Abbott's account with Target Rewards.
 - **Movie License:** The district will be paying for the new movie license at all Millard Public Schools, so this item has been removed from the budget. Prices on snacks at movies will be reduced so that movie nights break even on costs since the PTO will no longer have to pay for the new movie license.

Committee Updates:

- **Movie Nights (Maureen Kitchen):** The new movie license has been purchased by the district. The first movie night is scheduled for Oct. 21st. Volunteers are already scheduled.
- **Youth Frontiers (Julie Shaner):** The retreat went very well in September. Students reported that they loved the experience, that it was a fun field trip, and that they learned a lot. Next year, parents may be asked to volunteer for the retreat (however, not parents of 4th graders) as Millard will no longer allow high school students to volunteer during the school day. The 4th grade teachers reported that the students really benefit from this experience, and it helps to foster positive interactions between students throughout the entire school year. The date for next year is currently being negotiated.
- **Walk-A-Thon (Julie Shaner):** The dinner and dance was a huge success. 371 meals were served. Less than 200 people pre-bought meals, but 30 more meals were served this year than last year. Due to some changes in kitchen staffing, a Rigazzi's employee ran the steamer so there were some problems with the pasta. Rigazzi's owner has offered Abbott a discount on the total price if the decision is made to use Rigazzi's catering again next year. Some changes are being brainstormed for ticket purchasing for next year to help better plan for food amounts. \$3000 in pledges have already come in for the Walk-a-thon, which is being held on Friday, October 7th. Pledges are due at 3:30 PM on Thursday Oct. 6th. Anything after that will not apply to classroom totals for the class party. The drones and alligators have been huge hits as prizes to encourage pledge levels. All the necessary volunteer spots have been filled, but more cheerleaders are always welcome! Parents are welcome to help cheer on their students. Watch Dogs will also be helping for the afternoon. The lunch time trivia has gone well with students.

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- **Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Candice Casper/Robin Matthes):**
 - Amazon Smile: Abbott has signed up to be an Amazon Smile Charity. If you click on the link sent out in the Gator tales, Abbott will receive a portion of your Amazon purchase.
 - New Box Top App: This app can increase box top values from 10 cents to 30 cents per box top if you scan your grocery receipts. The app is free.
 - Shoe Box Program: Wearable used shoes can be turned in to the Shoe Box organization. 75 cents per pound will be sent to Abbott based on the pounds of shoes donated (over 50 pounds of shoes must be donated in order to receive these benefits).
- **Yearbook (Suzie Hartman)**: Yearbooks are still for sale for \$15 each. Instructions for submitting photos for this year's yearbook will be coming home soon. 5th grade parents need to turn in their dedications.
- **Educational Grant Programs/Scholarships (Carri Dyer)**: The form is being mailed to teachers today, and they will have 2 weeks to complete and return the application. Mrs. Hardage reports that the teachers love these grants!
- **Buzz Book (Laura Hensley)**: Currently, the committee is making sure that all information has been received and all new family information has been turned in. Orders are still being accepted for Buzz Books. Links for the electronic version of the Buzz Book will go out soon.
- **Hospitality (Becky Eichmann)**: A sign up sheet was sent out to volunteers to help with conference meals. A few more volunteers are needed!
- **Bricks (Erin Barry)**: Bricks should be installed by Halloween.
- **Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Carri Dyer)**: All of the Room Volunteer Coordinator positions for classrooms have been filled. Organizing for Halloween parties will begin soon. Halloween parties may be held the Friday before Halloween. The parade will start at 1:45 PM.
- **Fun Nights (Cara Robbins)**: The first event will be held Oct. 25 for 2nd and 3rd grade students. A game and a small treat has been planned for participants.
- **Social/Welcome Committee (Jessi Mann/Amy Skolaut)**: No report
- **Fifth Grade Farewell (Candace Casper/Jennifer Cukendall/Shelly Anzalone)**: No report
- **Original Art Works Fundraiser (Debbie Smith)**: No report
- **School Carnival (Kristy Gotschall)**: Fun Services has been secured as the vendor for next year. This event is still in the planning phases, and will be held April 28, 2017.
- **New Business**
 - Popcorn Machine Purchase Discussion: The PTO is considering purchasing a popcorn machine. The price would be between \$500-\$1100. Currently, for movie nights the PTO borrows a popcorn machine from a local church. The purchased machine would also be available for all school events, or classroom parties. A machine was owned by Abbott previously, but there were some issues with the fire marshal and fire safety policies. Dr. Chaussee will check into current regulations with the fire marshal to see if this would be possible. More discussion will happen at upcoming PTO meetings. Storage may also be an issue.

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- **Questions and New Business:** The Superintendent Advisory Meeting was held last week. The following items were discussed at the meeting: Students are receiving laptops at Millard North high school in 2 months. The Early College Academy at Millard South is full. A bond or levy override may be coming to help provide teachers with raises. Free and reduced lunch students can receive Cox Cable for \$10 a month. The school calendar was discussed, and how that is established. The Millard Schools Foundation will soon be starting a new campaign focusing on digital learning, and student behaviors.
- **Adjournment:** Jaime Diamond motioned to adjourn. Joy Campbell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.