

Grace Abbott Elementary PTO Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017

Board Members: Alyssa Mason, President; Josh Kitchen, Treasurer; Christy Kleffman, Secretary; Matt Liston, President Elect

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Welcome/Introduction of Board Members and meeting attendees

Review October Meeting Minutes Jaime Diamond motioned to approve the minutes. Suzie Hartmaan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Principal Report Dr. Chaussee updated the PTO on the plans that were presented by the landscape architect for the proposed walking track. Four proposals were created. Each of the proposals would be 8 feet wide, but would be different shapes and placed in different locations behind the school. Concept 1 would cost \$48,500, Concept 2 would cost \$48,500, Concept 3 \$41,000, and Concept 4 would cost \$24,000. The Millard maintenance department will have to approve the plan, as well as the Chief Financial Officer. The PTO voted on the plans and Concept 1 was selected.

Treasurer Report Walk-a-thon calculations have been completed and the event netted \$19,700. There are still some matching funds coming in, and that number will be reported once these funds are finalized.

Reminder about the Levy Override campaign – Please vote! The school is still doing ballot collecting in front of Abbott during morning drop off for the next week. If you want to volunteer to collect ballots, please contact Addie Hollingsworth or Carri Dyer.

Committee Updates:

Movie Nights (Maureen Kitchen) The first event was held Friday. 88 people attended to watch the movie “Sing”.

Youth Frontiers (Matt and Ashley Liston) A HUGE thank you to Carri Dyer and Julie Shaner for recruiting volunteers and to everyone else who helped as well.

Walk-a-thon (Julie Shaner and Erika Rooney) Every classroom decorated a thank you poster which will be given to sponsors. Planning for next year's event will begin in the spring. Thank you to all of our awesome volunteers!

Yearbook (Suzie Hartman and Jaime Diamond) Yearbooks are still for sale for \$15. 5th grade dedications are due! Please turn those in ASAP. We are in need of photos of students, staff, and teachers at any events so far this school year including: Walk-a-thon kickoff, Walk-a-thon, Halloween parties, service projects, field trips, or classroom activities. Please submit them to the committee. Forms with instructions for submitting pictures are in the Gator Tales and in the office.

Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Robin Matthes) \$1,277 worth of Box Tops were submitted for the Fall collection. New bags for the winter collection will be sent home in folders this Friday. The Hy Vee receipt program is currently in progress. Robin is looking into posting in the Gator Tales or around school regarding promotional items that are being featured for extra Box Tops.

Social/Welcome (Liz Guinn) The Snowflake Breakfast is being held on January 20, 2018. If you can volunteer, please contact Liz Guinn. Dan Ried from The Pizza Pie Guys is booked for food.

Fifth Grade Farewell (Kristy Gotschall and Addie Hollingsworth) This year's Farewell celebration will be held on May 21st. The first planning meeting is tonight following the PTO meeting

Hospitality (Becky Eichmann) no update

Original Art Works Fundraiser (Debbie Smith) no update

Fun Nights (Cara Robbins and Cheri Shoup) The first, second, and third grade events were held in October. Both went very well, and were well attended. The 4th and 5th grade Fun Night will be held on Nov. 16th. The students and families will be playing Bunko.

Educational Grant Programs/Scholarships (Carri Dyer) We have received the student scholarship info sheet from the foundation; it will be filled out and sent back. 19 teachers submitted grant proposals to the PTO this year. The budget for the grant program is \$4,000. An extra \$5000 is available in the budget from the Walk-a-thon fundraiser. After a discussion on how to best meet the needs of teachers, especially new teachers who have a greater need for items for their classrooms, it was motioned by Carri Dyer to increase the budget to \$6,660.71 for educational grants, so that all teacher grant requests can be funded. A vote was held and the motion passed.

School Carnival (Kristy Gotschall) This year's carnival will be held on Friday, April 27. Fun Services has been reserved. The committee will start meeting after winter break.

Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Carri Dyer) The Halloween parties were a success! Thank you to everyone who helped!

Buzz Book (Laura Hensley and Jaime Diamond) Buzz Books are done for the year! Online registration for the district helped for this project to be completed earlier than in previous years. Buzz Book paper copies came home right after conferences.

Bricks (Erin Berry) We are hoping to have the bricks in before Thanksgiving break We are having some trouble getting the bricks in, but we are working with the craftsman on this.

New Business Last month a presenter attended the PTO meeting to give more information on the Dancing Classrooms program. The program not only teaches dancing, it also addresses respect, kindness, and manners. The PTO portion of the program would cost \$2200. Matt Liston motioned to vote on this program. The motion passed, and the PTO will help to pay for this program. It will begin with this year's group of 5th graders.

Questions No questions

Adjournment Christy Kleffman motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Matt Liston seconded. The meeting concluded at 8:05 PM.