

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

- **Welcome/ Introduction** of Board Members and meeting attendees
- **Review May Meeting Minutes: Jessi Mann motioned to approve the minutes, Kristy Gotschall seconded the motion. No changes were made.**
- **Principal Report:** Dr. Chaussee described the upcoming election process for the school board. The elections are not divided into sub districts, and everyone can vote for the candidates at large. There is no pay for board members, and the board is non partisan. Dr. Chaussee then opened the floor to questions from parents. The question was asked how the school will handle the upcoming presidential election. Staff have been instructed not to share with students who they are voting for, and that it is a personal issue. Staff will also state basic facts, for example, there is an election in November. The portable classroom will be used for the polling place to ensure the safety of students. A parent asked if any action has been taken to ensure safety for walkers with the recent incidents of child enticement around Millard schools? Dr. Chaussee reports that the district will not disseminate information unless directed to do so by the Omaha police to prevent the spreading of false information. This is true for all school districts in the Learning Community. No extra police officers have been posted around Abbott, since no incidents have been reported here. A parent asked about how field trips going to be paid for this year. The district can no longer charge for curricular field trips. Upcoming field trip letters will include the word donation. It is hoped that parents will choose to help fund the field trips if possible. If 100% funding by parents is not achieved, other budget areas will have to be utilized to help pay for the trip. Teachers have been directed to do 2 field trips maximum per grade unless the trip is free or funded by the hosting organization. A parent asked when Abbott will provide information on the MAP testing results. Teachers will share this information with parents at parent teacher conferences. This information will include individual student performance as well as the national percentile score. The NESAT is a state test, and will still be given. The Terra Nova and the SRI will no longer be given. This results in the total number of time students will spend taking assessments decreasing.
- **Secretary Report:** Nothing to report
- **Treasurer Report**
  - **Budget Overview:** Changes to the budget from the previous school year include:
    - Buzz Book: The PTO is offering \$100 towards classroom prizes to the class with the highest participation in confirming information.
    - School Carnival: Due to an error by Fun Services who helped run the carnival last year, extra money was spent on prizes. This will be corrected in the 2017 carnival, so expenses were only budgeted for a \$500 increase.
    - The PTO will no longer participate in Coke Rewards.
    - Educational Grants: \$3000 will be provided for teachers to apply for funding for classroom projects and needs.
    - 5th grade farewell: The PTO will continue to fund t-shirts for each 5th grade student. \$500 is budgeted for this expense.
    - Movie Fun Nights: The movie license needs to be renewed. This license also covers Kids Net, and movies shown in the classroom. In approving the budget for 2016-2017, this will also be an approval for purchasing the new movie license for the school.
    - Scholarships: Each year, a college scholarship is offered to a Grace Abbott graduate. In the past, a single \$1000 scholarship was offered. This year, 2 scholarships in the amount of \$1000 will be offered.
    - Youth Frontiers: The amount provided by the PTO will be increased to \$2300 as outside scholarships will no longer be paying for this event.
    - The soccer net clips will be removed from the budget, as it was determined that the soccer goals Grace Abbott currently has do not fit with the clip system.
    - Miscellaneous Expenses: The amount was increased to \$950. The money that was budgeted for the soccer nets was moved to this item. The increase is due to one-time extraordinary initial PTO admin expenses.
    - Traffic Volunteers: This amount was changed to \$75 per Dr. Chaussee's recommendation. In past years there were 2 volunteers at \$50 each. This year there is only 1 volunteer.
  - **Budget Approval:** Jaime Diamond motioned to approve the budget, and Jaci Gruber seconded. The motion passed and the budget for 2016-2017 was approved.

**Committee Updates:**

- **Movie Nights (Maureen Kitchen)**

- New Movie License in Budget (5 years): It will cost a total of \$1125 to renew for 5 years. This will be purchased, as the new budget was approved.
- The first movie night is October 21st.
- Movie nights will be held in October, February, and April.

- **Youth Frontiers (Julie Shaner)**

- The retreat will be held Tuesday Sept. 27th for the 4th grade students.
- We are still in need of college age volunteers for the day of retreat. 12 total volunteers are needed.

- **Walk-A-Thon (Julie Shaner)**

- T-shirts - 17 total sponsors; order placed this week. Extra t-shirts will be ordered and kept in the office so that new students who begin attending Abbott in the middle of the year can also receive a t-shirt. The t-shirts this year will be softer than in the past and a little more form fitting.
- The Dinner/Dance is scheduled for September 23rd.
- Pledges for the walk-a-thon will be taken from September 26<sup>th</sup>-October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Walk-A-Thon will take place during the school day on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.
- A volunteer sign up will be available soon.
- A new tier will be added to the prizes available for student pledges gathered.
- A raffle will be offered at the dance. Tickets are available at the door, and on the website. You do not need to be present to win.

- **Yearbook (Suzie Hartman)**

- Orders are being collected at discounted prices now.
- Fifth grade dedications are also being collected, reminder that photos will be returned.
- If you take photos during the year please submit to the yearbook. We love high resolution pictures of smiling faces. We were very short on pictures last year.
- Cash and check ordering only is available. No online ordering.
- One volunteer is needed to add event photos into the yearbook.

- **Educational Grant Programs/Scholarships (Carri Dyer)**

- No new information

- **Buzz Book (Laura Hensley)**

- 202 families have already confirmed their information. 69 have not. 137 paper books have been sold.
- An app is available this year for the online version of the Buzz Book.

- **Hospitality (Becky Eichmann)**

- We are in the process of purchasing \$25 gift cards from target for ALL staff at Grace Abbott to be given in their respective weeks of celebration.
- We will start soon getting out sign ups for the fall teacher appreciation dinners as well.

- **Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Candice Casper):** Candice is looking for a volunteer to help with the website updating for the PTO. The summer collection is underway. Extra ice cream from the Ice Cream social will be awarded to the winning classroom of the Box Tops competition. The next collection will take place around Thanksgiving.
- **Bricks (Erin Barry):** 5 orders have been placed so far.
- **Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Carri Dyer):** Jaime provided Carri with the volunteer list. 115 parents volunteered.
- **Fun Nights (Cara Robbins):** No update
- **Social/Welcome Committee (Jessi Mann/Amy Skolaut):** Snowflake Breakfast will be held on January 21st. Less money was spent on ice cream this year at the Ice Cream Social, as supplies were bought at Costco as opposed to Dairy Queen.
- **Fifth Grade Farewell (Angie Herman/Jennifer Cukendall/Shelly Anzalone/Candice Casper):** The farewell will be held on Tuesday May 9th at Kiewit Middle School.
- **Original Art Works Fundraiser (Debbie Smith):** No update
- **School Carnival (Kristy Gotschall):** The carnival will be held on Friday April 28th.
- **New Business:** No new business
- **Questions:** No additional questions
- **Adjournment:** Shelly Anzalone motioned to adjourn. Laura Hensley seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.