

Grace Abbott Elementary PTO Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018

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 by Alyssa Mason.

Welcome/Introduction of Board Members and meeting attendees

Review November Meeting Minutes Amanda Peterson motioned to approve the minutes, and Maureen Kitchen seconded the motion.

Principal Report There is no new progress to report on the installation of the walking track. Dancing Classrooms will start on January 18th. The 5th grade teachers are meeting tomorrow with the Dancing Classrooms instructors to get the program started. The program includes 40 minutes of dance instruction with each session. The program teaches manners, kindness, and respect in addition to formal dances. Exact Path is a computer program that can be used at home and at school to work on skills covered in the MAP test for students in 2nd through 8th grade. The program got started last semester, and a couple of notes have gone home to parents with more information on how to log on and more information on the benefits of the program. The school would like to see each student use the program 40 minutes a week.

Treasurer Report \$3800 of educational grants have been dispersed. The tether balls have been paid for, and were \$300 cheaper than expected.

Committee Updates:

Movie Nights (Maureen Kitchen) The next event is February 3rd.

Youth Frontiers (Matt and Ashley Liston) The scholarship offered for this program has increased to \$1500 for next year. Abbott will apply for the scholarship again for the next school year.

Yearbook (Suzie Hartman and Jaime Diamond) Orders can still be placed. The cost is \$15.00, and forms are in the office. We are in great need of photos for next year's yearbook! Please submit your photos. Instructions are in the Gator Tales. 5th grade dedications need to be turned in now. Forms are in the the school office.

Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Robin Matthes) This is the last week for the winter Box Tops contest. We have already earned \$715 through this collection. Hy Vee receipts can be turned in until Jan. 12th. We have earned \$200 through the Hy Vee program. The TAGG app has earned \$128. Please download and use this app if you haven't started already!

Social/Welcome (Liz Guinn) The Snowflake Breakfast is January 20, 2018, 8:00 AM-10:30 AM. We are still in need of many volunteers! Only 20 spots are filled, and only 30 people have signed up to provide treats for the event. Sign up is available on the PTO website. The Millard North Band director will be informing his students about this event to see if they can volunteer to help. Tickets are available in advance through January 18 on the PTO website. Adults are \$6.50, children are \$4.50. Tickets at the door are available for the increased price of Adults \$7.00, and Children \$5.00.

Parents will be informed next year that if they opt out of the Buzz Book they will not receive emails from room parents about classroom events. Next year, there will also be a process formed to alert the room parents when a new student joins or leaves a classroom so that they have an accurate count. Christy Kleffman motioned to have a Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition committee created. Kristy Gotschall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Fifth Grade Farewell (Kristy Gotschall and Addie Hollingsworth) The first planning meeting was held Nov. 7th. The committee chose 5 themes at the meeting and then presented them to the students for a vote. The winning theme was 80's with the slogan, "The Future Is So Bright We Have To Wear Shades!" 5th graders can enter a design for the t-shirts. Submissions are due January 19th. The committee will narrow down the choices and then the 5th graders will vote on one at their Valentine's Day party. The event is Monday, May 21st at Kiewit.

Hospitality (Becky Eichmann) no report

Original Art Works Fundraiser (Debbie Smith) The packets have arrived and will be going home soon.

Fun Nights (Cara Robbins and Cheri Shoup) All fun nights are done for the year. Kindergarten made Gingerbread houses and had 68 students in attendance. 1st grade played Left Center Right and had 45 students, 2nd/3rd grade played Tenzi with 31 students, and 4th/5th grade played Bunko with 27 students. The older grades have been steadily increasing their attendance at this event.

Educational Grant Programs/Scholarships (Carri Dyer) Several teachers have sent thank yous for their educational grants, sent pictures of their rooms, and have invited us to check out their classrooms. Scholarships applications should be coming in soon. Contact Carri Dyer if you would like to join the committee and help read and rank the applications. The deadline has been extended to March 1st.

School Carnival (Kristy Gotschall) The Carnival will be held on Friday, April 27. The committee is meeting after the PTO meeting this evening. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kristy. Fun Services has been reserved.

Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Carri Dyer) Valentines Day parties will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 2:15. An email reminder will be sent out to room parent chairs.

Buzz Book (Laura Hensley and Jaime Diamond) no report

Bricks (Erin Berry) 11 bricks were installed in November.

New Business The Levy override passed. The funds will be used to maintain current programs. This program will help to support the 1 to 1 laptop program in grades 6th through 12th grades. Dr. Chaussee thanked all of the parents who voted in support of the override and all of the parent volunteers who helped with this effort. It was much appreciated by the staff.

Two Abbott families were in need of financial assistance this semester. The PTO provided \$100 from the hardship fund and helped to gather other items needed by the family.

Questions no questions

Adjournment The meeting concluded at 7:22 PM. Maureen Kitchen motioned to adjourn the meeting and Christy Kleffman seconded the motion.