

Grace Abbott Elementary PTO Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Alyssa Mason.

Welcome/Introduction of Board Members and meeting attendees

Review March Meeting Minutes Carrie Dyer motioned to approve the minutes. Cheri Shoup seconded the motion. The March minutes were approved.

Principal Report The 5th graders performed their dances learned from the Dancing Classrooms program for the 4th grade students today. The students will perform for 5th grade parents on Thursday morning. Dr. Chaussee appreciates the PTO funding this activity. A team of 12, 5th grade students will be performing at the Omaha Community Playhouse in a competition with other Dancing Classroom schools on May 8th. The tether balls on the new poles have broken from the clips at the top of the poles. These will be repaired, and in the future, the balls will be taken off during the weekend. The walking track has not been approved by the district at this point. It may be possible in the future to appeal this decision. Dr. Chaussee will ask for a district representative to come and speak about this issue at an upcoming PTO meeting. The PTO is trying to be good stewards of the money donated by families, and will continue to pursue this issue with the district. State testing is taking place next week.

Treasurer Report No changes to report.

Superintendent Advisory Committee Report Millard North was state champs in debate, dance, forensics, and cheer and had 65 Omaha World Herald scholars. MNHS also had 7 winners in the Educators Rising competition. Changes to the middle school curriculum has helped with budget difficulties within the district. The levy override may be accessed at around the 4 cent mark for additional help, but they district may still need to consider additional cuts to the budget as state aid has continued to decrease. On Wednesday April 11th from 6:30 to 8:30, the Omaha police will hold a meeting discussing Police and City Active Threats Response. The meeting will be held at Millard North High school auditorium. Mayor Stothert will speak, along with the police and fire chief, and Douglas county emergency responders. Dr. Suttin briefly discussed the recent walk outs at area high schools and said that to protect the viewpoints of all students, the district is taking a neutral position. 6th and 7th graders will get laptops next year, and the following school year 5th graders in the district will receive iPads. There will then be a gradual release of iPads down to the 4th and 3rd graders. This will save the district money as they phase out computer labs in the district. There is a new movement called #bekind started in the Ralston public

schools, that will be adopted district wide. Parents will be involved in brainstorming how to make this cultural change in each Millard school.

Committee Updates:

Movie Nights (Maureen Kitchen) The last movie night is April 6. The kids got to vote on the movie selection this time, and chose Despicable Me 3.

Youth Frontiers (Matt and Ashley Liston) We found a new location for next year's event. St. Andrews (15050 Maple Street) has agreed to host us on October 23, 2018.

Walk-a-thon (Julie Shaner and Erika Rooney) Next year, the Dinner Dance will be held Friday Sept. 7, 2018, with the Walk-a-thon on Sept. 21st.

Yearbook (Suzie Hartman and Jaime Diamond) The yearbook has been submitted for publication. They will be delivered at the end of the year.

Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Robin Matthes) no report

Social/Welcome (Liz Guinn) no report

Fifth Grade Farewell (Kristy Gotschall and Addie Hollingsworth) This year's event will be held on May 21, from 6:00-8:00, at Kiewit Middle School. The theme is "Our future's so bright we have to wear shades". The cost for families is \$35. This includes a t-shirt, activities, and food for 3 people. The Tap House will be catering, offering great food and a great deal on the cost. A video was made of each 5th grader saying what they want to become when they grow up. Addie Hollingsworth is working to collect baby photos and photos from grades K-5 for video. The committee is still finalizing activities but will have music, dodge ball, a tattoo artist, video arcade game, etc. An invitation will be printed and sent digitally (noting to RSVP and no siblings). The committee is in need of volunteers to help. Please contact the PTO if you are available.

Hospitality (Becky Eichmann) no report

Original Art Works Fundraiser (Debbie Smith) Order forms went home in March, orders have been placed.

Fun Nights (Cara Robbins and Cheri Shoup) no report

Educational Grant Programs/Scholarships (Carri Dyer) There were 8 applicants and the committee is now reviewing them to choose for the 2 scholarships that will be awarded.

School Carnival (Kristy Gotschall) The Carnival will be held Friday, April 27. Fun Services has been reserved. Ticket sales are currently taking place online. Volunteers are greatly needed. Please see the PTO website for volunteer opportunities.

Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Carri Dyer) The Halloween party will be held on Friday Oct. 26, 2018 at 1:45. The Valentines Day party will be held on Wednesday Feb. 13, 2019 at 2:15.

Buzz Book (Laura Hensley and Jaime Diamond) no report

Bricks (Erin Berry) no report

New Business:

New Committee Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition Committee –Cara Robbins and Carri Dyer will get it going for the 2018-2019 school year. This committee will speak at PTO sponsored activities to recruit, advertise, and welcome new families. The committee chairs will be notified by the office when a new student enrolls and then notify the Room Parent Chair and the Classroom Chair. The committee will also nominate and select a PTO volunteer of the month, a PTO teacher of the month, and select someone for “Millard Employee of the Month” 2x per year (1 teacher, 1 staff member) and Millard Awards of Excellence.

Next Year As of April 1, all committees have a chair or co-chairs except for Hospitality, which is in progress.

Board Elections for 2019-2019 Next year, the PTO Board will be: President: Matt Liston, President Elect: Cheri Shoup, Secretary: Joy Neville, Treasurer: not yet filled. A huge THANK YOU to these individuals for volunteering their time and talents to Grace Abbott. We appreciate you!

Questions no questions

Adjournment Matt Liston motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM, and Ashley Liston seconded the motion.