

Minutes
EAST PRAIRIE PTA GENERAL
MEETING
March 3, 2015

Attendance: Jill Kempner, Cindy Payne, Beth Negronida, Abby Tumang, Angel Weiss, Lisa LaPata, Zhanna Soloveychik, Iwona Dobek, Claudia Lopez, Chris Oh, Kathy Byron, Lara Barros

- I. **Call to order/Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
- II. **Secretary's Report: Reading/Approval of minutes from November**
 - a. Minutes of February 3rd meeting approved by Claudia Lopez and seconded by Abby Tumang
 - b. The Secretary position will be available for the 2015-16 school year. Please contact Kathy Byron or Claudia Lopez if you are interested.
 - c. Website: Please continue to refer to the website for the past minutes and upcoming events. We are working on uploading logos, a communications protocol and other useful items so that they are easily accessible.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Chris Oh received the EPI checks for the multi-program discount and Internet sales. Book balance 2/28/15 at \$12,373.84.
- IV. **President's Report**
 - a. Next Tuesday we are hosting our district's PTA meeting. We need someone to check people in. It starts at 6:30 pm. There will also be a speaker. About 25 people are expected to come.
 - b. There is a PTA Convention in East Peoria in April. Please let Kathy know if you would like to go. Kathy and Claudia are planning to go. The dates are April 17 and 18.
 - c. Please take the 5 Essentials Survey on-line. The last date to take it is March 13. If 20% of the school population takes the survey, East Prairie will get the results.
- V. **School Report**
 - a. Lisa LaPata reports that the PARCC testing went really well today.
 - b. The teachers have a new evaluation system that is all on-line and it is going well.
 - c. The Springfield/St. Louis trip went well. Everyone had a great time.
 - d. The second Strategic Planning Meeting is tomorrow night.
- VI. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Family Reading Night: Scheduled for Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00. The theme will be "Wild About Books". Please contact Claudia Lopez, Lara Barros or Erin Mohip if you are willing to help out with the planning of this event or on the night of the event. We are planning to have family entertainment starting at 7 pm followed by the book give-away. We are still looking for three readers for that night and 8 classroom hosts.
 - b. Teacher Appreciation Week: This year it is May 4-8. Abby Tumang is looking for help in planning this week-long event. She will also need help carrying out the specific events like the breakfast, luncheon and decorations. She has been exploring themes and at this time is leaning towards a superhero theme. Abby will be meeting with Mrs. Stein Tuesday, March 10 at 2:10. She will then pass any information on to other committee members.

1. Lara Barros motioned the idea to look at the budget to determine if we are able to expand the previous practice of the PTA purchasing gift cards for the middle school teachers to all teachers and assistants. Gift cards would be purchased through the Scrip system so that the PTA would benefit from the purchase. Jill Kempner seconded the motion as well as Abby Tumang and Angel Weiss. The decision will be pending the number of staff that would be included as well as determining that there is adequate money available for this expenditure. Abby Tumang will discuss the number of staff with Mrs. Stein during her meeting about TAW.
- c. Fundraising: A big thank you to the East Prairie Foundation. The Foundation purchased gift cards for their fundraiser. Their purchase earned \$61.20 for the PTA. The fundraising committee would like to also encourage the use of the Scrip system for teacher appreciation week. The fall fundraiser met its goal. There will be a gift card sale this spring. There may be two sales. Anyone who is interested in joining the fundraising committee, please contact one of the committee members.
- d. Terra cycle program: The PTA has supported the Terra cycle program in the past by collecting items to be sent in for points which translate into a donation back to the school. The program is changing the minimum amount of items in a shipment to count for the points. The new amount is more than our school can collect. The program will be sending us a check for \$10 for our previous shipments.
- e. Gift to School: The treadmill has been delivered and other requests have been put off until next year. Kathy will write a letter to the board to present the items as gifts. The requests are due March 6th.
 1. The fundraising committee will review the requests and bring recommendations to the April meeting to be voted on. Kathy will send a reminder email. Ms. Sharkey asked for clarification regarding what previous gifts have been.
 2. Gifts should be things/programs/experiences that would be beneficial to enhance the student's educational experience but are not included in the school budget.
 3. PTA members can also make suggestions for a gift to school.
 4. Examples of gifts from the past couple of years:
 1. Science materials
 2. Document cameras
 3. Treadmill
 4. Replacement book sets for students (novels)
 5. Digital cameras
 6. Document cameras
 7. landscaping for Angel's bench
- f. Family Art Nights: the next Family Art Night is scheduled for April 15th.
- g. Membership- Angel Weiss has been helpful in creating an Excel document of PTA members. She has also created updated membership form for the PTA to consider for next year to help with compiling an accurate list as well as provide an opportunity for members to indicate an interest in volunteering for scheduled events and other responsibilities.
- h. Cultural Arts
 1. Thank you to Jill Kempner for the February 9th assemblies with Kevin Luthardt.

2. Jill received some feedback on the assemblies this year. They provided some ideas of what they liked in the past as well as some ideas of possible future assemblies. The teams shared that they would rather have one great assembly per age group rather than multiple assemblies for the entire school. There may be another assembly in the last few days of school. Kathy will speak to Mrs. Stein about this and Jill will look into possibilities.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Car Magnets: We did not make a mock-up. Claudia has the logo and she will proceed with the company as it was presented at the February meeting.
- b. Birthday Books: Mrs. Stein was not present. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- c. Compensation for volunteers: The PTA has given lunch vouchers and free books in the past. In reviewing the bylaws, the PTA should not be receiving compensation for volunteering. Beth Negronida has requested that we continue to provide the middle school student volunteers with lunch for the fun fair.

VIII. New Business

- a. Panther Days is March 19th at Dengeo's it is the conference day. Information will be sent out via email.
- b. Bike Safety Day is being planned for May 2nd. This is the same day as registration. Charles Saxe is organizing the event. He is planning on it running from 9:30 to 12. He is looking into student volunteers as well as a few adults to help out. He would also need volunteers available at 8:30 for set-up. The stations and volunteers needed are as follow:
 - i. Station A - Registration - greet participants, sign in, have parents sign waiver, distribute materials to participants - 2 volunteers
 - ii. Station B - Safety Station - Helmet fit, ABC quick check, small bike adjustments, air for tires - 4 volunteers
 - iii. Station C - Skills Station - Instruction in starting/stopping, turns and signals, hazard avoidance - 3 volunteers
 - iv. Station D - Fun Ride - Turning, yielding, trail ride, figure 8 - 3 + volunteers to monitor
- c. Tax exempt letter: Kathy will send it out the updated letter.
- d. Zhanna Soloveychik and Jill Kempner shared that the school bus service is a problem this year for many families. The drop off time is not consistent. It is supposed to come at 3:15 but has come as late as 4:05. The bus has also not come in the morning. Beth Negronida suggested contacting administration regarding the problem.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:39.

The next meeting is set for April 7th at 7 pm in the library. We encourage you to bring a friend to this meeting.

