

Minutes
EAST PRAIRIE PTA GENERAL
MEETING
November 4th, 2014

Attendance: Kristin Hernandez, Jenny Hsu, Erin Stein, Claudia Lopez, Angel Weiss, Alan Castro, Ludelle Castro, Chris Oh, Jill Kempner, Kathy Byron, Lara Barros

- I. **Call to order/Welcome:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

- II. **Secretary's Report: Reading/Approval of minutes from October 7, 2014** Kathy Byron motioned to approve the minutes, Claudia Lopez seconded the motion.

- III. **Treasurer's Report:** It was a quiet month. Please see report for details. The Fun Fair raised about \$611. There was some discussion as to what budget to take the magician for the Partners for Learning Night. It was decided to take it from the Parent Education budget. Claudia Lopez motioned to approve and Lara Barros seconded the motion.

- IV. **President's Report:** Kathy Byron has been working with individual committees to build membership so that committee leaders feel supported. The PTA is also looking into ordering and selling car magnets and also refrigerator magnets. The refrigerator magnets would include the important school numbers. The magnets are cheaper in greater quantities and could be bought ahead of time as they wouldn't have any dated information on them. Kathy has been working with Ms. Maloof and Ms. Henry to explore options to buy and designs.

- V. **School Report:** Principal Stein reported the following:
 - a. She would like to thank all of the parents that volunteered to help out with the Halloween parties. She was impressed with the number of parents and the creativity of the snacks and activities.
 - b. The eighth graders took the Explorer Test on November 1st at 10 a.m.
 - c. Report cards will be issued on Wednesday November 5th. K-3 will be sent home in backpacks. 4th-8th will be sent home in the U.S. Mail.
 - d. November 5th is Partners for Learning.

- VI. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Communications Coordinator: There is no new news. Please continue to send proposed flyers and e-blast to Beth Negrónida for coordination and proof-reading.
 - b. Fun Fair: Rachel Coppola and the committee met for a wrap-up meet to discuss what went well and things to change for next year.
 - c. Box Tops - Please contact Caryn Tono if you have any questions.
 - d. Fundraising -
 1. Book Fair: Kim McKinney reports that the in school fair will be December 10 – 12, 2014. The on line Book Fair will be open from December 3 - 8. This year's theme for the Book Fair is **SIR READALOT'S CASTLE! ENTER THE KINGDOM OF BOOKS!** Beginning in November, 2014

through the beginning of the book fair, we will be running "Token" wars (Change wars) between the classrooms to benefit "All for Books" in which our school collects loose change and dollar bills to buy books for kids needing assistance, and to help the school earn more books/resources. The winning classroom of the "Token" war will receive a PIZZA PARTY!!! Additionally, if the student council is interested in helping, we will need volunteers to be in the Clifford Costume and walk Clifford around, to promote the Fair. We were able to have Scholastic send the Clifford Costume as part of the fair. If anyone is interested in helping with the Book Fair committee, please contact Kathy Byron at kbyron@sbcglobal.net or Kim McKinney at kmcalmckinney@sbcglobal.net."

2. Spiritwear: All orders should be delivered at this time. Thank you to all parents and school staff that helped with the sorting and distribution of the clothing.
3. Giftwrap: Ludelle Castro reported that the EPI Gift Wrap goods are expected to arrive the week of November 17th. Please continue to place on-line orders until Mid-December. There was an issue that was preventing on-line orders from going through; however, it is now up and running again. At this time catalog sales were \$4900.00 in sales and on-line sales are \$777.60. Any sales over \$5000 will give the school 53%.

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all those who have helped with the Fall Fundraiser so far including maintenance, teachers, office staff, and families who have participated and donated.

- e. Health and Safety - Claudia Lopez reported that the Safe Routes to School Initiative (SRTS) is a new initiative that East Prairie is adopting to enhance our children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near our school, and improve air quality. To kick off this new initiative we are incorporating "Walking Wednesdays." Students and their families are encouraged to walk to school every Wednesday beginning November 5th until the end of the school year. Students who walk to school will receive a stamp on their hand to show that they have chosen a healthy way to start the day. Our hope is that "Walking Wednesdays" will start a new and healthy trend at East Prairie. Please check out the SRTS website at <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org>

A continued thank you to Angela (need last name) for her help controlling traffic after school. Also, Don Martin has offered to help when he is able.

- f. Family Art Nights :Gina Lorenz and Dana Kuzwayo have been organizing this year's Art Nights! Please drop in to the Art room with a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, whomever. Come any of the following nights from 6:15 - 7:30. November 12th Project: Upcycled t-shirt shopping bags. January 21st Project: Painting "Unity Circle" tiles. April 15th Project: Balloon painting, finish bags, mount tiles. These events are free and no art skills are necessary! Questions? Please ask our Art Teacher Dana Kuzwayo or PTA parent coordinator Gina Lorenz at 847-568-1123.
- g. Membership : The PTA cards have arrived! Pat Hayes will be figuring out a way to distribute the cards. Generally cards are received prior to the start of school and are attached to the calendars.
- h. Cultural Arts :

1. Family movie night: Kim Uribe has been working with administration to plan Family Movie Night! The committee met October 29th. The movie for Grades K-5th is Mr. Peabody and Sherman. The doors will open at 6:15. ALL CHILDREN WHO COME MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT. NO DROP OFFS! The movie will begin at 6:30 and run until 8.

We will be selling cheese pizza as a service, since it is around dinner time, for \$1 a slice. The movie including one bag of popcorn and one water bottle per person will be free. Additional popcorn or water will be .50. The food and drinks will be available from 6:15 - 7:00. Children may bring a blanket or sleeping bag. There will also be chairs set up for adults and children. In a community spirit, we will all clean up after the movie. When everything is cleaned up we will raffle off the movie, winner must be present.

There was some discussion regarding the use of a popcorn machine during movie night. This discussion will be continued between Kathy Byron, Claudia Lopez and Erin Stein at a later date.

2. Assembly - Jill Kempner: Face to Face productions will perform the Wright Brothers for grades K - 8 on Monday, November 24 at 9 and 10 am. The contract and down payment have been sent. The remainder is due on the performance date.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

- a. Call for volunteers for upcoming events:
 1. Movie Night, November 14
 2. Book Fair: Needs committee members as well as volunteers to help set-up/take down and man the fair when it is open.
 3. Parent Safety Patrol: We are still looking for volunteers to help with controlling traffic after school.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm

