

# Polaris PTO Meeting Minutes

## Monday March 2, 2015

Officers Present: Jane Hartgrove, Brian Nelson, Megan Rosenweig (Quorum Met)

Others Present: Chris Dunn, Vicki Swift, Christen Alix, Kara Chitwood, Peggy Bachelor, Molly Chenard, Jeanie Bitzer, Karin Johnson, Children from the Zen Garden Elective.

### 1. Principal's Report:

Following the February 2015 PTO Meeting when the PTO approved, with concerns, \$128,000 commitment to pay for paras for the 2015-2016 school year, Karin spoke to another principal and discovered an alternative. Instead of the PTO paying to fund the paras, the PTO can fund two teachers. The end result, according to Principal Johnson, is that the PTO will instead commit to a funding total of \$107,071. This will still include the reduction of one para leaving due to retirement. That position will still go unfilled. However, if additional positions become open, those positions may be filled without increasing the funding above the \$107K figure above.

Jane moved for the PTO to commit to a budget of \$107,071 to fund two teachers rather than the previous \$128,000 funding commitment. Brian second. Motion passed 3-0.

Monday is a speaker Terry Bradley. The topic is Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Children.

### 2. Zen Garden Committee:

Polaris Students from the Zen Garden Elective made a presentation to the PTO. Years ago, the Polaris Zen Garden was funded by a Start Grant. The Zen Garden is now basically gone. The students have contact Santa Fe Sand and Gravel Company. They will donate some of the materials for re-doing the garden. Items will need to be purchased and then delivered in May. Members of the elective were going to do fundraising in the lobby, but Principal Johnson was concerned at the amount of fundraisers in such a short time, plus the sale of Girl Scout cookies. The students asked the PTO for \$300 to \$350 to fund the remaining expenses. This cost includes some gravel, a bridge, and a bench that Max and his dad are fixing up. Someone suggested that doing the project might anchor well with the Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> Spring Cleanup Day.

Megan moved to allocate \$350 to the Zen Garden Committee. Jane second. Motion passed 3-0.

### 3. Principal Selection Report:

The advisory committee has been chosen. The committee has had one meeting, which was an HR training meeting. Interviews for the new principal may occur by Spring Break. After interviews, there will be a school-wide forum. The Forum would be for the final 2 or 3 candidates.

### 4. Romancing the Vine:

Big turnout at the event this year, including big teacher turnout. Reports say the event raised \$10,000. STEAM teachers that do projects for movie making cost \$6,000 which is budget number so that's fully funded now. Wishing Wall allowed numerous donations. Sarah Porter Osborne worked the Wishing Wall. There may be a STEAM item in ePost each month to make sure that parents who were so generous will know where the money went. The \$10,000 figure does not include wine ordered from Proof after the event. Art show winners are up in the Library. Some of the extra funds may be used to pay for robotics kits which are \$300 to \$350 each. Robotics Elective currently uses 5 kits which are rented and currently come out of the electives budget. STEAM committee will likely spend the additional funds this year. Megan will carry forward any additional funds but not as individual fund accounts if there is money not spent this year.

## **5. Treasurer's Report:**

Romancing the Vine money still coming in. Sponsors have been invoiced. PayPal money is on the way. Only big item remaining is payment to DPS.

Annual Fund slightly behind but still close enough to not worry about.

Target payment of \$2095 came in. Will be annual payment in February now.

Grocery card reloadables are up \$1170 over last year.

Stanley British Intern will be same as last year.

Megan will adjust 2015-2016 Contractual DPS Commitment number based on new \$107K number.

Total BoxTops for this year is \$571.89.

Plan is to try and hold no inventory of Grocery Cards over summer.

Scripps Howard grant has been submitted

## **Electives Advisory Committee:**

One big issue is that Sherry believes that whoever runs the electives program probably needs to be an educator. We do need to decide if the structure needs to be changed. Structure probably needs to be decided first. We need to get whatever Electives Program is going to be set up really soon. Elective Committee will start as Kara, Jane, Brian, Melissa Ream, Ms. Forrington (if willing), Richard Lloyd.

At Faculty Voice meeting the teachers talked about electives. Some teachers say it is too long, and that the classes might just need to be 45 minutes, but the cooking things are longer. Maybe there could be a 1st elective of 45 minutes and the 2nd elective is 1 hour. Either first or second hour can be the shorter one. If there was additional funding for the electives then we could have more professional electives come in and then parents could be more helper volunteer rather than leading or coming up with. Teachers support the electives program. Vicki believes that the teachers are not interested in eliminating electives.

## **Events:**

For the Love of Art Chil Cookoff April 16 - Arts part is taken care of by Korellee and Danny. Haylee Figora is doing Chili Cookoff with help of Peggy.

Gala is in the works. Food trucks in work.

New Parent Night - Trying to streamline documents. They are on it.

Spring Cleanup - usually led by the Girl Scouts but may be led by Green Committee this year.

Green Committee would like to be involved with other events as setting up recycling.

Need new ePost chairperson leader. Deborah will not be doing it next year.

Next year's committees are getting ready too. Jog-a-thon is up and running.

This year, we will time our Teacher Appreciation Week to be during the actual National Teacher Appreciation Week. Carmen Mix is heading this up.

Need better connection with Student Council for other community service opportunities.

Haylee will do Sign Up Genius for Field Day.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:26 pm**