

PTO Meeting February 1, 2024

Kelly Slattery called meeting to order at 7:09p

Members Present – Principal Martin, Kelly Slattery, Barb Somrack, Ben Kimball, Christine Taylor, Julie Zettl, Jennifer Wolf, Michelle Frania, Lisa Adair, Eric Sukalac, Mary Suvak, Jared Sprogis,

Members Absent – Ben Kimball, Jennifer Wolf,

Parents Present - Kayla Mariola

Secretary's Report - Barb

- Minutes from last meeting – motion to approve 1st Lisa, 2nd Julie

Treasurer's Report – Jared motion to approve - 1st Christine, 2nd Lisa

- Checking \$ 17,741.03
- Savings \$ 28,845.05
- Event Committee \$ 16,198.04
- Went over budget on All Saints Day donuts (food costs have gone up)
- Checks were paid to Kelly for Back to School Night, Jim Adamic for Christmas dinner supplies, Jen for All Saints Day donuts, Melanie Kilmer, Lisa for classroom supplies
- Jared will look into figuring out who has paid PTO dues – when paid through Digital Academy monies go into a lump sum and are deposited into PTO checking – makes individual payments hard to track. Jared will reach out to Brianna.
- Observations/suggestions – from now on we should have witness for cash payouts at events – someone on PTO or another accountable party. Several vendors at Halloween party and Night at the Races were paid from cash collected at the event, which is acceptable as long as it is written down and witnessed.

Boosters Report - Mary

- Basketball is wrapping up
- Spring sports registration open soon
- Boosters members met with Dan Barcikowski (civil engineer & St Helen parent) to move improvement to soccer field forward
 - also considering reviving trail behind the soccer field. The trails is from a boy scout project several years ago and Boosters would like to recover it.

Principal's Report – Mr Martin

- Finished science fair, grades 5-8. Mrs Schous did a nice job, and we see lots of opportunity for cross-curriculum, will continue to look into those possibilities in the future
- MAP is finished as of tomorrow
- Catholic Schools week has been exciting, Mr Martin thanked PTO and parents for food that was brought in for teachers today
- A committee met to discuss '24-'25 academic calendar, made some adjustments accounting for parent feedback, looks like first day of school may be later than normal (still needs to be confirmed by committee – dates will be announced soon)
 - also discussed possibility of extending school day by 10 minutes to reduce total number of school days we need in the year, this would also make it possible to take Mon & Tues off for thanksgiving to give traveling families a whole week off.

- Parent teacher conferences: committee is discussing adjusting both time of year and style to better serve parents and students based on parent and teacher feedback.
- Lastly, discussing shifting away from iPads for 5-8 for Chromebooks because students should have devices with keyboards. 5th graders would receive a Chromebook and it would be theirs until 8th grade. Students will be able to take home to do assignments – however this would require increasing registration fee to cover costs.

President's Report -Kelly

- Wanted to recognize and thank Mr Martin for being approachable and being open to discuss changes with PTO and parents.
- Sledding day is a BUST due to no snow. Will reschedule with hopes of better sledding weather, looking at chalet availability for Feb 17, 24, or March 2
- We're paying the Positive Pay fee for both the Event Committee and the PTO checking accounts, can we consolidate next year and have only 1 checking account? Jared and Barb will look into how that would work and if we can implement that for next year.
- Science Fair went over budget, 15 people to feed with budget of \$100 – it was just not enough. PTO will consider this when making next year's budget.

Chairpersons Reports

- Room Parents – Lisa

- Valentine's parties got rescheduled due to Ash Wednesday and Lent – it was brought up that the party was originally scheduled on the second day of Lent, which may prevent some students from participating fully

- Event Committee - Barb

- FINANCES

- Current EC Checking balance is \$16,198.04
- Income:
 - \$1,000 Gala sponsorship
- Expenditures since our last meeting include:
 - \$25/monthly fraud protection service fee

- DINE OUT for Feb/March

- Pierogis every Friday at DS Cakes throughout Lent – Fridays only, mention St Helen

- GALA UPDATE

- Currently soliciting donations - going pretty well
- Current Sponsorships: \$8,750
- Anyone has something they were given for Christmas, or items new/still in box (or at least unused) they do not want they may contact Barb to donate
- Alcohol – PTO members have traditionally donated towards the booze basket, please bring donations with receipt to next meeting or find Barb in pick-up line
- Costco – filled out donation request form, need a parent to drop off

- Other Fundraiser Ideas

- Fun run/walk-a-thon through Boosters fundraising platform - need someone to coordinate and plan
- Emeth Gymnastics in Middlefield did a Parent's Night Out fundraiser for Park

Elementary PTO - we've been discussing parents nights out to build community, maybe we use this as our child care then encourage parents to meet up somewhere?

- If we got 40 kids to register that would be about \$1000 raised, plus these are open to the public, so more than just St Helen kids could sign up and help our fundraiser.
- **Teacher Appreciation – Mary**
 - Food for teacher appreciation worked out really well
 - Mary would like to send a request a notification for parents to join the teacher appreciation committee to be sent out via newsletter

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Lisa's mom gave her many certificates for a free Panera's kids meal, and she has enough for all 154 kids in school. The teachers have to sign the certificates, then we can distribute. Please note they expire at the end of the month.
- Lisa requested we keep a weekend open in the school calendar for the Washington DC trip. This cannot be a school-sanctioned trip for legal reasons, but they want to be sure the kids won't miss anything important/fun at school. She would also like to start fundraising, since the cost is expected to be about \$550/kid.
- A new family has joined the 5th grade, and they are very happy so far with our school community.

Closing Prayer – meeting adjourned at 8:04p