

# ***Cedar Island Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes***

***Thursday, March 16, 2017***

***6:30 pm***

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## **Welcome & Introductions**

Brandy Gerth

Attendance: 4 parents, 3 staff

## **Old Business**

### **Bobcat Bash**

Kari Jansen

- Attendance was down this year. Predict that we'll make less than previous years, less than \$8000. There are still some outstanding bills and silent auction monies to collect. Sports tournament drew families away. Food sales were down, and there was a ton of food left over. Silent auction was successful; lots of submissions and bids. Next year there is a need for some fresh leadership.

### **Conference Catering**

Taryn Kuebelbeck (for Beth Burggraff)

- Enough volunteers stepped up to avoid having to cater in one of the days. Trying to brainstorm ways to reach more people. Many of the folks who volunteered to bring in food for this conference also volunteered for the fall conference.

### **Book Fair**

Barb Lindsay (for Candee Ebeling)

- Went well. Open 3 days and during Pastries for Parents (made over \$800 during this time alone. Total profit is \$1836. Over \$600 was for books purchased as gifts for teacher classrooms. The school will get a percentage of total profit. Dan told a story about a bus driver who gave 'bus bucks' to students who read during bus rides. He matched the amount he gave out dollar for dollar to contribute to the book fair, \$59.

### **Pastries with Parents**

Kim Landstad

- Spent \$180 for donuts and coffee. Donations down significantly. Only Target and Sam's Club. Struggled to get volunteers to help out. Is Candee ok having the book fair during the early hours of the morning? There is always a need for more volunteers. Would parents who bought books during this event buy during one of the conference days instead? Is there an opinion about continuing this next year? Need to take a holistic view of all activities we ask for volunteers and prioritize based on that. We want to avoid "volunteer fatigue". Do we need to provide another opportunity for parents to sign up with a volunteer form?

## **Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kari Jansen

- February account balances: Checking \$29,588.96. Savings \$36,663.36. Total income to date \$32,699.29. Total expenses to date \$25,837.90.

### **Principal's Report**

Dan Wald

- Thank you for the conference catering. It means a lot to the teachers and staff. Preparing the licensed staff for next year. 3 sections for every grade level except 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will have 4. Class sizes will range from 19-25. Retirements this year: Pam Bishop and Nancy Knutson. There's a chance for teachers to shift grade levels. Curtis and Bourbeau moving to 2<sup>nd</sup>

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grade. Walker moving to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Openings in kindergarten, fourth grade and skills room. Teachers across the district will have the chance to apply for these positions. Author David LaRoche will be coming 4/10/17, PTO sponsored. He will provide an evening lesson on creative letter writing. Starting to get ready for the vocabulary parade which will be held 5/19/17. Parade will be held in light rain, but it will be canceled if there is heavy rain. The school can't hold the number of parents who come to view the parade. Kids would still get to parade for classrooms during the school day. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year for the parade. Are parents still interested in continuing? Teachers say kids still get really excited. Survey may be sent to parents.

## **Volunteer Update**

Barb Lindsay

- Barb hasn't been here since January (at the PTO meeting). It's been a very concentrated, busy time, but things are getting back to normal in the volunteer room. She's starting to think about setting things into place for the next year. A lot of field trips coming up. Fifth grade will be doing a bowling party the last day of school. Kari and Candee heading this up. Fifth grade parents will hold a reception for the fifth graders, parents invited, to send the kids off to middle school next year. Ice cream social the last week of school.

## **Teacher's Report**

Special Education Teachers

K-

Kindergarten would like to thank you for the supplies for their lovely Valentine's party. There were many parents volunteers to help make sure the party ran smoothly, and the kindergarten teachers would like to extend gratitude to those of you who gave your time. They also celebrated Dr. Seuss day on March 2nd, received visits from Maple Grove firefighters on February 26th, and got the inside scoop of dental hygiene from local dental hygienists. The students had such a fun time at the carnival.

1st-

First graders had fun on March 2nd celebrating "Read Across America Day" with some special Dr. Seuss books, movies, and art. This was one of their monthly reading celebrations to celebrate the awesome reading first graders are doing. They've had fun reading with flashlights, wearing crazy socks, reading Robert Munsch books while munching on snacks, and reading on their beach towels for "Read on the Beach" day.

2nd-

Second graders are enjoying DARE lessons with Officer Marinello of Maple Grove Police Department. They just took their long-awaited for field trip to Stages Theater this afternoon. One 2nd grade student reported to me that, "It was awesome!!"

3rd -

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Third Graders are preparing for MCA tests. After Spring Break, they will receive their next science kits--where they will be exploring and studying the Physics of Sound.

4th-

Fourth graders will be going to the State Capitol and Minnesota History Center on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. They would like to thank you for your generous funding of the trip! It enhances their study of the United States as they are busy practicing their states and capitals.

On behalf of all the teachers at Cedar Island, I would like to thank you all for the great potato bar, taco bar, and Italian buffet during our conferences. It was all very delicious and much appreciated!

Thank you all for your continued support in order to provide the best education for students here at Cedar Island. It means a lot to us as educators to have such supportive parents.

## **New Business**

### **2017-2018 Open PTO Board Positions**

Brandy Gerth

- Open positions: Secretary and Asst treasurer. Kari Jansen will move to Treasurer (currently asst treasurer). Taryn will continue to be vice president. Nominations are being taken for the open positions. Lara (current secretary) willing to continue as secretary or move into asst treasurer position. Barb and other board members to contact families for nominations.

### **PTO Activities & Volunteer Leadership discussion**

Taryn Kuebelbeck

- Taryn brought up concern that parents aren't volunteering because perhaps they don't know enough details about the activities PTO sponsors during the school year. That may be why we don't get more volunteers. Do we have too many activities? Should we prioritize? Should we set up a separate meeting to thoroughly discuss this topic? There was agreement that we could do a better job about explaining each activity. How do we get people to read it? What about kindergarten parents? Try to do something different next fall. Kindergarten Open House for the parents? Art Adventure has training in August/September. Can we get something in front of the parents this spring to prep for that? Is there an opportunity at the ice cream social to reach parents for next year? How do we communicate to parents that activities will start to fall away if more volunteers don't step up? Do we have to limit distribution of volunteer appeals to people who signed up already? At this time Barb has no way to contact families who haven't signed up since she doesn't have contact info. So how do we get Barb's contact list to be bigger? If we just have a general sign-up, Barb will miss her segmentation for different groups especially classroom vs PTO opportunities. Taryn asking to set up a separate meeting to discuss this in more detail.

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## **Ending Items**

### **Last minute additions, comments**

- Kim proposing to discuss new opportunity to provide a fun activity for the kids. The inflatables party has gone away since we're no longer doing the fundraising that was directly connected to the party. She is open to putting this together. Kids that experienced this in previous years still get excited about the idea of it. Discuss at the April meeting.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 8pm

**Next PTO Meeting: Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 pm**

***Thank you for being a part of Cedar Island's PTO!***

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<b>2016-2017 PTO Officers</b>
Brandy Gerth, President
Taryn Kuebelbeck, Vice President
Lara Gilbert, Secretary
Sara Hanzlik, Treasurer
Kari Jansen, Asst. Treasurer