

PTO meeting minutes

December 6, 2011

In attendance: Sarah Chiccarello; Jennifer Minor, Principal; Linda Gallie; Whitney Crutchley, VP Community Business Partnerships; Deanna Labella; Jackie Kostas; Suzy Collins, School Treasurer; Heather Fuentes, Co-Chair Bookfair and Volunteer Coordinator; Stephanie Cunningham, Hospitality Committee Chair; Chelly Maniuszko, VP Communications; Joe Muth, PTO Treasurer; Sandy Meris, Co-VP School Spirit and Events; Karen Odden, President; Tracy Caruso, Secretary; Amanda Frazee, Co-Chair Bookfair; Danna Evans; Carrie Tunkey, Enrichment; Eileen Dunigan; Sheila Muehling, Carnival Chair

Welcome, Karen Odden

Karen: I'm thinking about next year's board. Some people are leaving and some people want to switch positions. Let me know the plans so we can help Holly get her board setup. Last year's election was in March. Let's try and get it settled before the end of the year.

Presentation by Danna Evans (Grant)

Danna: I went to continuing education. There's a grant at state level for character education. A new department with grant funds which weren't advertised. It's a great opportunity, grants from \$1,000 to \$10,000. We should take advantage of the grant funds. We already have fill your bucket and pilots; possibly merge into pilots programs. It's called Top 20 Training. There's the 80/20 rule and am I having an above the line day. 100% of Brophy parents were all about emotional skills – organized, self starters, leaders, etc. We are teaching the IQ but not the emotional. The kids should say I'm motivated to learn something. Teach let the problem be the problem. Teach the conviction scale: I'm going to do my very best; I'm going to do better notes. What are they bringing to the table? We are partnering with Desert Shadows Middle School. The proposal is due tomorrow. We would like to introduce to fourth grade and fourth-sixth through pilots. The money is for \$9,700.

Remarks with Jennifer Minor

Jennifer: Thanks, Danna, for working together for the grant request; creating 21st century thinkers and good digital citizens. This Thursday is Not My Kid which is all about Internet safety and helping parents to filter content. It is focused for third graders and up. Joe Muth will be coming.

Labella: It is really great education.

Jennifer: Thank you to those coming to the leadership team. Thanks to Stephanie for the grade level lunches. I've had some great feedback on them. Thanks to Linda Gallie for putting together Fresh N Easy event. \$539 was made at the shopping night.

Joe: Use tax credit funds for iPad funds have been approved. We are getting it in the next month and setup for January.

Jennifer: We will offer infinite campus. Someone will give tutorial. Hopefully February/March we will have the Teachers common assessment meeting. Rob Allen was here at the staff meeting. He gave tools to the teachers to skill area on aims where students are lacking. Ann Sturmiss is coming Thursday to show us what the data looks like in every area.

Sheila and Carnival Information

Sheila: Handed out budget for carnival. I've volunteered to help out. Last year the budget was \$8,000 but we actually spent \$9,120. \$13,000 was expenses but included vendor monies, which nets \$11,200.

This year we aren't doing class gift baskets. The silent auction will be going on. The class baskets are overwhelming. Increase ticket prices. \$15 then 20 but no raffle included. We will be doing \$20 tickets that will include 5 raffle tickets. We will have smaller baskets valued at \$25.

Based on last year's numbers, \$29,000-30,000 income is possible. 200 prize tickets to come in, 9,000 food tickets, extending carnival one hour. We are anticipating 11,000 in income. We will be offering photo booth by Sylvan, face painting, BBQ, hot dogs, carnival food. Music is the theme this year and there will be a DJ stage in the center. This year the layout will be a little different.

Teacher Representatives: Deanna Labella and Sarah Chiccarello

Sarah: Thank you for everything. Everything is going smoothly with training. Last year was stressful but this year is like clockwork.

Deanna: Thanks for the Brain Pop Jr, magazines and National Geographic Jr. The book fair was great.

Approve PTO Minutes: Tracy Caruso

Still to come

Updates

Joe Muth, PTO Treasurer

Joe: There is \$36,498 balance in checking. We are about \$14,000 less than where we were last year. Spring is on budget while income is below budget. Voluntary donations and enrichment is about the same. The school store and book sales are down. I also need to confer with community business partners. Calendars and directory was way down; about \$2,700 less.

Chelly: Yes, sales were down on calendar/directory this year. The directory is coming out this Friday, by the way.

Joe: Maybe we should re-evaluate the calendar/directory next year.

Amanda: I love the combo deal we did, but maybe we can do a digital format for directory; either or for purchase.

Eileen: PV and Sonoran Sky have Google, but I wouldn't know how much I would pay for it.

Karen: Physical calendar is best especially since the kids love seeing their pictures in it and there is a calendar in every teacher's room.

Suzy Collins, Treasurer School

Suzy: All looks good. I'm concerned about next year's Magic Yellow School Bus. This year started at 3,000 but 1,000 right now. The demand is going up.

Karen: We should find a way to fund Magic Yellow School Bus. We take the sixth grade money. Where to find the money?

Joe: Finances are the heartbeat of what's going on. Bounced checks are 6-7x higher.

Karen: Make a bigger budget line.

Suzy: I've had 4. I used the letter. I've recouped all money except for one.

Joe: Did you recoup the fee, as well?

Suzy: Yes, we do include the fee.

Linda: We know the checks take awhile sometimes. If we own this, should we reduce the fee?

Chelly: No, it's a given since they've signed the check.

Sarah: It's tough this year. Parents can't give as much. More people working and less volunteers. I've bought more supplies this year than ever before.

Suzy: Jackie has agreed to be the counter for next year.

Stephanie Cunningham, Hospitality

Stephanie: Dilly's Deli has been great for the lunches. Next Wednesday is the holiday lunch. I'm sending out Evites soon.

Whitney Crutchley, Community Business Partnerships

Whitney: We are cruising right along. We have Cameron Hughes wine tasting and Amy Barnes Sweet Basil for food. Not too sure what PF Chang's is doing yet. It's a Taste of wine and beer with signature vodka drinks. Food will be BT's, Tilted Kilt and PF Chang's. Two chefs at 7 and 8pm for cooking demos and also a coffee/dessert area. The goal is to get as much donated as we can. Ticket prices do include alcohol. Proposed is \$5,800 and 100 couples. Hopefully we can recoup with donations.

Karen: Motion to approve the budget of \$5,800 for the event.

Everyone: Aye

Sandy Meris, School Spirit and Events

Nothing to report. I am working with the carnival and moving forward.

Sheryl Thomas & Linda Gallie, Fundraising & Fry's/Fresh & Easy

Karen: Sheryl sent me an email. We received \$740 with our last campaign push for voluntary donations. \$1,500 was spent on Amazon in November and we received \$88. We need to push this with parents.

Jennifer: I recommend a call out.

Whitney: The call out did Chick-fil-a but it didn't do Peter Piper Pizza.

Karen: The year is date earning for Escrip is \$703 and the PILOTS have taken over collecting and counting boxtops. We are tied for 7th place on the School Cents program. Did anyone look at the school store website? 5-20% back and it's similar to Amazon through the website.

Chelly: It's similar to Escrip. We don't market it well. We should pick one and run with it.

Karen: People said it's a lot of information to enter.

Chelly: Not anymore.

Linda: Fresh N Easy event did \$539. The receipt program ends in December. I will collect and enter in January with hopes to receive the check by the end of April. We are doing okay with Fry's. Fry's is

down, though. We are at 9,300. I will have two \$500 checks soon for Joe. We hoped to give to our sister school but we didn't hit our numbers.

Amanda: Can we do a flyer with logos?

Karen: We already did one.

Amanda: We should do logos for all for Escrip.

Karen: Maybe we should push more.

Chelly: We need to do a better job.

Carrie: Can we remember the school on Amazon's site?

Eileen: You can always save the link from the PTO's website as a favorite.

Karen: Let me see if I can do something and push to folders or an Eblast

Carrie Tunkey, Enrichment

Carrie: Enrichment seems slow for signups. We've had 8 requests for scholarships and all but one is a new request. How should we push enrichment? There's some confusion between enrichment and community education. It'd be great to push enrichment.

Chelly: There are so many great programs run but we just push the paper and don't explain it. Maybe run the information through the room parents to explain the program.

Deanna: We can put it on our newsletters.

Carrie: Maybe people don't understand it's paying our school's teachers and PTO.

Jennifer: Telling people it's for the PTO is good.

Joe: Called curriculum support

Jennifer: Draft something for the teachers.

Amanda: From a budgetary standpoint, parents want to do sports. If they have less money, they might go sports instead of academic.

Heather Fuentes, Volunteering & Bookfair (with Amanda Valentine)

Heather: We did \$14,500 for book fair. Our scholastic numbers were higher. After the silent auction, if we need money for spring fair, we should take a much bigger percentage if we use in scholastic dollars.

The schedule was crazy for two weeks. Fifth graders were away and the overlap with conference week didn't help. Better to team up with a family event where the kids and parents can visit the bookfair together. The plan for spring is a luau theme and it is during art walk.

Volunteers are harder to come by. Lost and found is not the greatest job. Maybe honors can sort them out? Last year we donated 100 coats.

Carrie: Sorting is okay.

Amanda: If we use the washer and dryer at school, it would be better.

Carrie: I agree to do lost and found, if I can use the washer and dryer at school.

Jennifer: Are you okay with honors sorting through lost and found?

Amanda: The socks go to Palamino and clothes to Arrowhead?

Chelly: We've been doing Arrowhead for years.

Amanda: Should we be doing a toy drive?

Karen/Chelly: It's too late this year.

Eileen Dunigan, Web

Eileen: Get me stuff early as possible so I can get it up on the website.

New Business

Papas Kids School House Foundation

Karen: Papas Kids School House Foundation is a tax credit. You can donate up to \$1,000. It's different from Sonoran Sky money.

Karen: 4-6 grades need new ceramic glaze. It's \$360. Can we fund again?

Chelly: Didn't we make it a line item last year?

Joe: No, I didn't find it.

Chelly: Motion to approve and make line item for \$360.

Joe: How much for the line item?

Karen: \$360 for each year.

Erin Spiekerman /K: \$137.50 for 3D geometric shapes and jumbo playing dice

Karen: Erin Spiekerman/K requested \$137.50 for 3D geometric shapes and jumbo playing dice.

Deanna: We are doing lots of stuff with shapes and there is a lot to do when you can have one for each person.

Jennifer: Yes, standards have included shapes and more.

Deanna: We would be able to share.

Chelly: Oriental can buy through Amazon.

Linda: Call and ask about a 10% school discount.

Deanna: If you get the school discount, usually you pay for shipping. Amazon gives you free shipping.

Karen: Motion to approve; all ayes.

Keyboards for iPad 2 Lab

Jennifer: We are using iPad 2 for publishing and researching so it'd be nice to get keyboards for them. 12-15 for 32 students. Apple has them for \$69; Kohl's has them for \$39 and Costco has them for \$49.

Linda: We should buy them at Costco and push toward School Cents.

Joe: Approve for Linda to buy 10 at Costco.

Linda: I will buy them at Costco.

Study Island K-2

Deanna: Teachers can use it for remediation or advanced. It can help so many kids on some many spectrums.

Jennifer: It is being used more this year. Tracking data and sending updates to grade levels; questions asked; grade level grades. We are accessing on Thursday on whether or not to keep 3-6th grade. Most of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade are using it but 6th grade not utilizing it.

Deanna: The first grade is excited about it.

Sandy: 6th grade is using Khan Academy and not Study Island. Khan is free. He gives a tutorial on how to teach math.

Jennifer: Khan is different. Flip teaching and training soon. It shouldn't be used in the classroom. Its purpose is for at home so the knowledge is already built.

Linda: Can we keep Study Island for those who are using it?

Karen: Let's talk dollars. Last year end of February we bought it. It expires on February 28. K-2 with all three together is \$1,200.

Jennifer: 3rd through 5th grade will want it, I'm sure. Sixth grade will do Khan.

Whitney: Let's wait to see about the teacher's meeting.

Amanda: The younger kids want to get those tools. Always a good thing, as long as they are using it.

Deanna: 1st and 2nd are crazy about it.

Jennifer: We've taken off the teachers that don't use it. We are being responsible with the licenses.

Karen: It's \$3,076 for all grades.

Carrie and Chelly: It's all about the teachers and the assignments.

Joe: Do we share the money? Make the motion to support the school and approve. K-6 and re-evaluate next year for teachers that aren't utilizing.

Karen: Can we do one year?

Chelly: Support K-2, but we haven't been using it so they still have until the end of February.

Jennifer: If K-6, setup protocols for homework and assignments. This year I said to ease into it. There are a lot of programs.

Karen: K-2 right now for discount and get more info for 3-6.

Chelly: We didn't plan in the budget for this but I want to see teachers get on board.

Jennifer: They all took the training. It's setting up the assignments. We went to a refresher this fall. Those who didn't take it, I took off of the licenses.

Let's vote on K-6 for 1.5 years. All ayes except for Chelly.

Upcoming Dates:

December 14: Enrichment enrollment deadline

January 10: Next PTO meeting