

High Plains Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/15/2016
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: High Plains

Attendance: 10
quorum of voters/board members present

Officers' Reports

President: Tracey Robinson

- "Welcome. Our PTO Board members have put together three focus priorities we'd like to address for the coming year. They are:
 - Increased Participation
 - Increasing "Free Money" Opportunities
 - Higher Fiscal Responsibility/Transparency
- Official PTO calendar is attached/and available online.

Treasurer: Jessica Jones (with Tracey Robinson)

- The proposed budget is very similar to year's past. A few of the major differences include:
 - Allocated fund baskets for Health & Wellness, The Arts, and Conservation & Community. These "baskets" of monies will be funded by specific events throughout the year (for example, Run with Timber funds the Health & Wellness basket) and allocated for use within that program.
 - The allocated fund for facilities is actually a grant PTO approved last year for a new snowblower. The monies have been set aside, but the snowblower has yet to be bought.
 - The allocated funds for the Art teacher are also monies set aside last fiscal year via PTO teacher grant, to purchase drying racks for the art classroom. They have yet to be bought.
- Budget approved and unanimously passed by PTO vote.
- Grant Requests:
 - Mrs. Rash (playground) has requested monies to buy new sports balls for the playground. Desires to purchase four each of: soccer balls, footballs, foursquare balls, and basketballs. No monetary amount given. NOT APPROVED as Student Enrichment Grant. **Roxanne Troup looking into possibility of using our current Labels for Education points to purchase.**
 - Mrs. Johnson has requested \$180 to transport the 5th grade students to the Pikes Peak Center for a presentation by the Philharmonic Orchestra entitled "Math Meets Music." APPROVED as Student Field Trip Grant.
 - Mr. Brubaker has requested \$200 to purchase award tokens for Cross Country team. Over 30% of student body is participating in Cross Country this year! APPROVED as Club Grant.

Principal: Tom Andrew

- Very excited about the new school year! We've added a preschool program to our school this year, in addition to a significant support needs (SSN) program. Our enrollment is up; we are currently sitting at 320 students.
- In academics:
 - Our ELAT grant (Early Literacy Assessment Tool) is in full swing. This grant provides a literacy assessment tool for K-3 students, and we've purchased the tool for our 4-5th grade students as well. For the first time, our building is using a common literacy assessment throughout the grades. This should eliminate the disconnect we've experienced between grade levels and aid in providing consistent supports for students who struggle with literacy K-5.
 - In addition to ELAT, our school has also purchased a fully articulated writing curriculum (K-5) by Nancy Fetzer. This curriculum was developed by an award-winning teacher, and is a cross-content writing strategy. This too provides consistency in our approach to writing instruction so that we can build upon student writing skills as they progress through the grades.
 - This year, we're rolling out AR-360 in the library. AR-360 is a reboot of the beloved Accelerated Reader program. It motivates students to read using books they already love and helps

boost/track their comprehension skills. All students start the year at a reading level set by their STAR assessment, then progress as they pass comprehension quizzes related to their books-of-choice. AR-360 also integrates non-fiction works that tie in well with our standards.

- In social/emotional learning:
 - Our district has adopted Yale's Center for Social and Emotional Intelligence program,
 - 'RULER,' to teach students to Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate their emotions. It uses the premise that if "you can name it, you can tame it." As a staff, we are using RULER in our own interactions, and preparing to present it to the children soon.

Upcoming Events

Run with Timber (in conjunction with Health Jam) on 9/23/2016. One of our largest fundraisers of the year; remember all monies allocated for Health & Wellness. Previous year's proceeds have purchased climbing wall, Ga-Ga Ball pit, new PE scooters and other playground equipment.

- Preschool will be joining us this year. They will run at a different time, but receive same prizes as rest of the school.
- Volunteers are still needed for day of.
- All pledges and donations are due back to the school by Friday, September 30.

New Business

District 20 Bond: guest presenter: Heather Cloninger

- District 20 is in a position to sell a portion of our current bonds and produce much-needed funds for school improvements across the District. This proposed bond is a "reallocation of existing monies" that will allow the district to keep more of what is already collected for use in upgrading existing school buildings and preparing for the expected growth in the north and east parts of our district. This bond will not increase anyone's property tax burden, but it is a one-time shot. If the bond does pass, every school in the district will receive monies to update their facilities. High Plains will receive monies to remodel our entrance/office area to increase security/visibility, and to remodel/expand our library and computer lab. The district will update our technology infrastructure, electrical capacity, and repair/replace our roof. Our school will also receive over \$250,000 in "discretionary funds" to be used in accordance with our building's site plan.
- More information (as well as specific money allocations) is available online at <https://www.asd20.org/bond/Documents/8-18-16%202016%20Bond%20Companion%20Resolution%20FINAL-as%20amended%20at%208-18-16%20board%20meeting.pdf#search=bond%20issue>

Announcements

Next meeting: October 13, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:40 p.m.

Minutes Compiled by: Roxanne Troup, Secretary