



Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm in the East Media Center.

Members present included: Allison Andersen, Sarah Lewin, Duana Howard, Kelly Dolan-Lange, MJ Blaisdell, Dewey Hupke, Betty Giddings, Janet Kuper, Helen Lukes, Lisa Wood, Kim Hansen, Julie Davison, Nikki Sidles, Gina Homan, and Amanda Johnson.

Welcome

Nikki Sidles Co-Chair greeted members for the second meeting of the 2014-2015 school year.

Treasurer's Report (Julie Davison)

PTO Funds:

Beginning Balance 09/09/2014	\$	19,059.22
Total Income	\$	144.18
Total Expenses	\$	00.00
Ending Balance 10/13/2014	\$	19,203.40

East Funds:

Beginning Balance 09/09/2014	\$	6,469.44
Income	\$	257.93
Expenses	\$	0.00
Ending Balance 10/13/2014	\$	6,727.37

Total Checkbook Balance 10/13/2014 \$ 25,930.77

Treasurer Julie Davison read the Treasurer's Report. Kim Hansen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Janet Kuper seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Secretary Report (Amanda Johnson)

Currently there are 96 PTO members. Approximately 30% of members signed up via InfoSnap. We are missing a few email addresses for new members that have signed up. Amanda Johnson will contact the Elementary Schools to see if these email addresses can be obtained.

The first edition of PTO News was sent home prior to this PTO meeting. It detailed the upcoming events for the group and provided highlights of what PTO has done for the schools. Members indicated it was a good way to present information and members hoped it would bring more participation in PTO events.

There is a “Quick Link” for Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) on the Independence Community Schools website. Monthly meeting minutes are posted on the PTO webpage.

Old Business

The 5th graders recently attended their Living History Farms field trip. Participants indicated this was a great field trip for the kids and it relates back to their lessons in class on Iowa History. The 6th graders attended Camp EWALU for a field trip. Participants indicated this was a great tool to teach the kids teamwork, discipline, self-worth, and other various important aspects.

West PE teacher Keith Donnelly received his various PE equipment that was approved at the last PTO meeting in September. Dewey Hupke reports Keith Donnelly is very appreciative of his equipment. Elementary Art Teacher Allison Andersen indicated she has received the tennis balls and these have been placed on the chairs which has greatly reduced the noise in her classroom. Some of the books she requested have arrived and the remaining books are anticipated to arrive soon.

The PTO has been working the Junior High sport concession stands at West Elementary. After seven times of working these events, PTO has earned approximately \$630. There are a few dates left in the volleyball season that members will be working. The Junior High basketball and wrestling schedules have been set and PTO will be working these events also. A sign-up sheet will be emailed to everyone so members have the opportunity to sign up for a timeslot. Please let Gina Homan or Nikki Sidels know as soon as possible so a replacement can be found. There was discussion on the PTO providing additional food at the concession stands. Any additional foods will be 100% cost and profit to the PTO. The group discussed pizza, hot dogs, and pickles as possible options. It was decided that pizza was the most plausible option. MJ Blaisdell made a motion to allow the PTO board members to organize the selling of additional food at the concession stand as long as profit will be made. Helen Lukes seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously.

Nickelback Redemption Center continues to take in cans and bottles for the PTO. The first check has been received and was \$59.35. Please continue to encourage people to take their cans and bottles to the redemption center and indicate they are to be donated to the PTO.

Junior Kindergarten was added to the PTO bylaws. JK teacher Brittany Holt was given the \$100 teacher gift that the rest of the teachers received at the beginning of the school year.

The fund request form was updated to represent the changes made at the previous PTO meeting including a deadline of April 1st for all fund requests to be submitted and the amendment of removing the dollar amount for when a fund request is to be tabled and replace it with the members may choose to table any fund request in order for additional research to be completed.

New Business

The Horn/Dorsey family recently lost many of their belongings in a fire. The PTO will be sending the family a card of condolences and gift card to help with their expenses. Discussion was made on the qualifications of the PTO to donate funds to families in need and does it fit into the PTO's mission statement. Kim Hansen made a motion to suspend all monetary donations of funds to families in need and instead the PTO may assist in organizing fundraisers or item donation drives for the families in need. Duana Howard seconded this motion, which then carried unanimously.

At the September PTO meeting the group voted via paper ballot to use Club's Choice fundraising company. Representatives from this company will be at Harvest Night on October 14th. The fundraiser will run from October 7th through October 21st. The money will be counted on October 24th beginning at 9:00am at West Elementary. Volunteers are needed to assist with this. Please let Gina Homan know if you can help. The products from the fundraiser will arrive on November 19th and setup will begin in the West Commons around 1:00pm. Product pickup for parents/students will begin after school and continue until 6:30 or 7:00pm.

There are three PTO T-shirt designs that are ready to be voted on. These will be decided on via paper ballot at the end of the meeting. Cost depends on the design. The minimum order of shirts to obtain the cheaper cost listed on the forms is 24 shirts. The design was approved via paper ballot with a majority decision to approve the second design. Please contact Gina Homan if you want a tshirt.

Principal Dewey Hupke reported on the playground progress and indicated the concrete has been poured and the playground equipment will be arriving soon.

Harvest Night will be held at West Elementary Commons from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. There will be various crafts, face painting, a book walk, and other activities. Silver Cord and Student Council students will be assisting with the various activities.

Movie Night will be held on November 14th at 6:30pm in the West Elementary gym. The movie "Bears" will be played on the projector screen. This is a free event and popcorn and juice will also be free. An email will be sent out to PTO members asking for volunteers.

The group decided to table the VIP seating/parking fundraising idea until a later date. The concession stands and car drive have been great fundraisers and will continue to be the focus of the group.

The Miami Heat Dunk Show will be the large all school presentation following this year's fall fundraiser. The BMX Bike Show was outvoted 13-2.

The potential of an additional fundraiser with kids making Christmas ornaments at school then families purchasing them for a small fee was suggested. The group discussed holding an art show in lieu of this option. Nikki Sidels made a motion to allow Allison Andersen and the principals to work together to organize this type of event. Kim Hansen seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously.

Each year the PTO provides \$1,000 for two \$500 scholarships, one of which is to be given to a student who strives to be an Elementary or Secondary teacher and holds a 3.0 GPA. The second scholarship can go to a student specializing in any field. It was voted on via paper ballot to offer these scholarships again this school year and was approved unanimously.

Fund Requests:

Kindergarten teacher Madie Forsyth presented her fund request for a new wooden table and chairs for the kitchen center in her classroom due to her current table being broken. Gina Homan researched the options for these items and located a 22" x 30" rectangle table with two chairs for \$60 or a 32" in diameter round table with four chairs for \$90. Madie Forsyth indicated she would prefer a rectangle table because it would fit in her classroom better and if possible she would prefer to have four chairs instead of two. The fund request was amended to approve up to \$100 for Madie Forsyth to obtain a rectangular table and four chairs. This was voted on by paper ballot and was approved unanimously.

Kim Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm. Gina Homan seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously.

Submitted by Amanda Johnson/PTO Secretary

PTO Board/Officers:

Gina Homan Co-Chair

Nikki Sidels Co-Chair

Julie Davison Treasurer

Amanda Johnson Secretary