



Lakes Elementary PTO Meeting

Thursday, 10.19.2017 7pm

2017-2018 PTO Board Members:

Tonda Kaminski – President

Danielle Maki – Vice President - Community and Fundraising

Karla Gould – Vice President - Building and Student Life

Amber Kaleward - Treasurer

Karen Baquerizo - Secretary

President's Report:

Tonda opened the meeting at 7:00pm, and presented our new PTO tablecloth. It is versatile with “Lakes Elementary Move ‘n Groove” on one side, and “Lakes Elementary PTO” on the other. It was made by Tonda’s sister and will be put to good use.

Move ‘n Groove did very well this year. We earned similar amounts as last year’s fundraiser.

Principal's Report:

Sharon thanked the PTO for a successful Move ‘n Groove and mentioned that she noticed great parent participation and was thankful for the sponsor donations.

Update on our Water Situation:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be testing our water any day now. They will test our unfiltered water from an outside spigot or source. They will test all three elementary schools that have wells. It will take an estimated 2 weeks for test results to come back after samples are drawn, which is the expedited timeframe. There are only two labs in the U.S. that perform this test at a cost of \$700-\$1200. The safe level of these chemicals as determined by the FDA is 70 parts-per-trillion. There was a wide range of variation in the test results from Belmont. But, Sharon is optimistic that our tests will not come back with concerning results. This is because the dump that was found near East Rockford Middle School was not a sludge dump. We will be notified when the test water is taken, and we will get another notification when the results come in.

Veterans Day Assembly

The Veterans Day Assembly will happen on Friday, November 10th. Veterans can come in to the school at 8:30am for donuts in the conference room. The school assembly is at 9:00am where we will honor them, have a flag raising ceremony, and we will ask them to stand and state where they served.

Change to the Kindergarten Holiday Music Program

This year will be the first year that Kindergarten will not participate in the holiday performance at the High School. They will have their own performance on Wednesday, February 21st, at East Rockford Middle School.

Reasons for this change being:

- Our program at the high school was becoming overloaded with too many spectators to safely fit in the auditorium
- Some Kindergartners are afraid of the stage, bright lights, and risers as they do not have the opportunity to practice at the high school prior to their performance

It was decided that it was best to give them their own special date to perform in an environment similar to what they are accustomed to.

For the rest of the school, the Holiday Music Program for grades 1-5 will be the first week of December, exact date coming soon.

Grades 1 and 2 will perform at 6:00pm

Grades 3 and 4 will perform at 6:45pm

Grade 5 will perform at 7:30pm

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Big Turnout

Many fathers and other upstanding male members of the community came out to share pizza and soda pop at this event. Thank you to Mr. Zokoe, Mr. Buekema, and Mr. Lowe for being in charge of the Watch D.O.G.S. If you know of a dad or a male relative who would be interested in getting involved, please let us know. Watch D.O.G.S come in to assist in the classroom. They do not have to stand and deliver or lead a class, they are more of a support and presence that the teachers and students appreciate very much.

New Michigan 3rd Grade Reading Law

Strong literacy skills are needed for students to be college and career ready. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed House Bill 4822 to ensure that children who exit third grade are reading at grade level. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year students must be proficient in reading on the state assessment in order to be promoted to fourth grade. This part of the law will apply when this year's first graders reach third grade.

The legislation requires that each school administers an ongoing assessment to identify each child's reading progress. These assessments will be administered three times per year and the first one will be done within thirty school days of school starting. If a child shows evidence of a significant reading deficiency, the district will provide an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) to address their areas of need and provide training and resources for parents and guardians.

Rockford Public Schools has a comprehensive Response to Intervention program that has been in place for over a decade. Many of the requirements required by this law are currently part of our RtI process. What the district will be adding to this process is the creation for formal IRPs for our students who reach a Tier III intervention level. This will be implemented with parent input and parents will receive frequent updates of their child's literacy progress. Students will receive intensive intervention, outside of the classroom reading instruction, and will be closely monitored.

Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade teachers will also receive additional professional development and resources to support their literacy programs. The State of Michigan has provided additional early literacy funding grants in order to support the implementation of this new law.

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year if your third grader has not shown evidence of meeting the State's expectations for third grade literacy (a year or more behind) you will be notified by the state and the district of the retention. You will always have the right to request a good cause exemption within 30 days of notification. There are numerous other exemptions as well. Some of these include students with an IEP or 504 plan, English Language Learner students, students who are at grade level in all other subjects, students previously retained, and students enrolled in the district less than two years without evidence of prior reading support. Superintendents also have the right to provide exemptions.

Rockford Public Schools has great pride in our early literacy and Response to Intervention programs. Our early intervention approach has been highly successful and will continue to support our students under the parameters of this new law.

Vice President's Report (Danielle):

Boxtops Race is underway and ends tomorrow, 10-20. It was requested to put out more reminders on Facebook next time to get people to more fully participate.

Spiritwear

A form will be sent home with each family. Samples of available clothing options will be displayed over Parent Teacher Conferences. They are a convenient gift for Christmas. Orders will be due on November 10th.

Family Night Out is on Monday, October 23rd, from 5-9pm at **Uccellos** in Rockford. A percentage of proceeds from purchases that show our flyer or a picture of it on their phone will come back to the PTO.

Popcorn is in full swing and happening again on 10-20.

Vice President's Report (Karla):

Fall Cleanup

We are seeking volunteers from Bella Vista Church. Last year, they sent a crew of 10 members and we had the grounds clear in 2 hours.

The dates for Fall Cleanup are:

- Saturday, November 4th
- RAIN DATE: Saturday, November 11th

ISAC Report

There are 32 new teachers in Rockford this school year. We have 100 more kids enrolled this year than last.

A journalist, Charlie Honey, is writing articles about our district for the School News Network. He is looking for special interest stories to write about our school.

Transportation

The bus inspections did not go well this year. 30 of 65 busses were red tagged for violations and once red tagged, cannot be used until fixed. The good news is that most violations were quite minor and all tickets were able to be remedied the same day.

The Rockford Public Schools Annual Report:

The district is starting to focus on education options for students opting to not go to college. Expanding programs that teach the trades are in the works.

Treasurer's Report:

Budget News

So far, this year's Move 'n Groove has collected \$19k. With accounts still outstanding, we expect to be close to \$22k at our next PTO meeting. This is similar to where we were last year with our earnings from the Move 'n Groove.

Key Card numbers are not in yet.

We received a grant of \$500 from Sam's Club/Walmart and \$100 from Mathnasium.

Teacher grant applications are still being accepted for consideration. We will vote on submitted grant applications at the next PTO meeting. The Board will review the grants at their Board Meeting prior to the PTO Meeting.

The submitted grant application that we received from a Kindergarten teacher regarding outdoor playground equipment could be used to receive a grant from Lowe's.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.