



Lakes Elementary PTO Meeting

Thursday, 11.16.2017 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, wishing everyone an early Happy Holidays. Vice Pres. Danielle is absent today.

Principal's Report:

Sharon thanked everyone for the success of the Warm Fuzzies October Treat for teachers and staff provided by the 4th grade, as well as the dinners provided during Conferences.

Book Fair was a success. All profits for Lakes are invested back into our Library.

Update on our Water Situation:

Water tests came back with PFAS levels of 1.25ppt, which is well below the EPA acceptable level of 70ppt. All are happy and relieved with the results.

Maker Space

There was a temporary delay for using the building space areas as they were still being prepared. Students will be able to see the completed space before Christmas, and will be able to use it next semester.

Looking for Needy Families

At Lakes, the staff adopts one or two families for the holidays. Lakes is currently the 3rd most prosperous school in our district when it used to be 7th or 8th, and we have fewer families who have financial need making it difficult to find them.

Families with a temporary financial difficulty also qualify for this help. It could be a medical situation, etc. Gifts include items like a gas card or a Meijer card, gifts that are always useful. All gifts are delivered before we go on Winter Break and it is confidential with only the principal and her secretaries knowing

who the recipients are. Please discreetly let the principal know if you know of a family who would benefit from this help this holiday season.

Kids Hope

Bostwick Lake Congregational Church has trained 9 volunteers, and our social worker will soon be back from maternity leave, so we will be starting the mentoring program after Winter Break.

Vice President's Report (Tonda filling in for Danielle):

Santa Shop

Santa Shop still needs volunteers. This event is scheduled for December 5-7 (Tuesday through Thursday) with Monday, December 4th as day for setup. A parent brought an issue from Santa Shop to our attention. She said that there is usually a special table for kids who do not have their own money to spend at the Santa Shop. The table typically has cheaper items, and when they are seen shopping that table, it potentially identifies them as needy to others. This parent suggested having a cash fund for children in need who would not otherwise be able to buy presents for their family members. Board agreed that it is a good idea to contribute funds for needy children to buy presents for their family members from any table so that they do not feel like they cannot fully participate in Santa Shop. There were 6 children last year who needed assistance, and 3 children the year prior to that. We do not yet know how many children will need to be helped this year.

Carnival

Carnival is on January 26th. It has been a difficult event in past years due to the lack of volunteers. It was not even possible in the past to get one parent volunteer per classroom. Most elementary schools hire out to a carnival company to make sure it is a success, but this will make the carnival much less profitable. The carnival is in January because it is the least busy month in the school year. It was suggested to ask the Interact Club from RHS to volunteer to help. Another suggestion was for children to receive their prizes right at the game, instead of collecting tickets to trade in at the end to simplify the process.

Sharon recommends we get estimates from carnival companies. Hiring it out would mean a shift in liability as well. A parent suggested that we send out emails asking for help more often. Parents assume that they are not needed if they do not perceive the need is urgent. There will be a Sign Up Genius for carnival.

Ideas for fun new games were a Dunk Tank and a Pie Throwing Contest.

Vice President's Report (Karla):

Fall Clean up

1 hour was spent by very few volunteers to clean up the grounds. It was too cold, with leaves frozen to the ground in some places. Clean up was incomplete, and we are looking at other options such as hiring it out, or asking the Student Council to organize a clean up. Kids tend to like to rake leaves. Could they do it at recess?

Treasurer's Report:

Voting on Grants

Most grants were approved either partially or in their entirety. The only grant which was postponed was a grant from the Kindergarten teachers requesting playground equipment. Due to the high cost of this project, this particular grant will be submitted individually to receive a grant from Lowes or Home Depot in the spring instead.

Other grants for books, art projects, classroom chairs and games were approved. 5th grade requested funding for bussing to an additional field trip. This was approved as well, but will not come out of grant money but additional field trip funds.

Of \$4000 in available grant funds, \$2000 has now been allocated. The leftover funds will become available again in the spring for more grants.

Other Notes

Sharon has suggested that we work on replacing the curtains on the stage. They are old and no longer look good. Tonda will get an estimate, check with the high school to see where they get their curtains.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.