
Lakes Elementary PTO Meeting

Thursday, 09.14.2017, 7pm

2017-2018 Board Members:

Tonda Kaminski -- President

Danielle Maki -- Vice President

Karla Gould -- Vice President

Amber Kaleward -- Treasurer

Karen Baquerizo -- Secretary

President's Report: Tonda Kaminski 7:00-7:15pm

To open, Tonda welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the year and asked all in attendance to briefly introduce themselves. We had 16 people in attendance tonight.

Jen from Warm Fuzzies:

Warm Fuzzies provides meals for teachers during conferences, as well as a once a month surprise lunch hour treat in the non-conference months. Warm Fuzzies also helps with providing extra school supplies for classrooms. Each month a different grade will be responsible for contributing through a Sign Up Genius that will be sent out 2 or 3 weeks prior. The treat schedule for donations is as follows:

- September: 5th Grade Treat Date: Sept. 22nd
- October: 4th Grade Treat Date: Oct. 27th
- December: 3rd Grade
- January: 2nd Grade
- April: 1st Grade
- May: Kindergarten

For parent teacher conferences, the donation schedule is as follows:

- November 6th: Grades K-2
- November 9th: Grades 3-5
- February 27th: Grades 3-5
- March 1st: Grades K-2

Donations should be turned into the office. Any help is greatly appreciated and there are many ways to get involved: Set up, donating plates/napkins/cups, etc. Please contact lakesPTO@gmail.com if interested.

Principal's Report: Sharon Wells 7:15-7:30pm

We have had a great start to the school year, with 523 students enrolled. Lakes has benefited from the millage passage and now has a 4th section of Kindergarten and 1st grade. This lowers class size which is so beneficial to our students.

Renovations have gone over well. Everyone seems to be pleased. New carpet is in square pieces, so replacement of damaged carpet will be very simple. New water dispensers are being used constantly by the students. This is all thanks to the bond passage of 2014.

We have new teachers and staff who all have great experience behind them. We have added two reading interventionalists.

Lakes Elementary is no longer a Title I school, which means that we do lose some funding.

Student device rollout was successful. There are some software issues that are being worked out at this time with our NWEA MAPS Testing.

The Rockford Education Foundation (REF) awarded Lakes a grant to create a "Maker Space," which is a room full of building materials for STEM and STEAM activities. REF is responsible for over \$5K in materials for this project.

It will take 6-8 weeks to set up the room, then afterward each classroom will visit the Maker Space every two weeks.

Maker Space is looking for parent donations of the following items:

- Used legos
- Q-tips
- Stackable cups, etc.

***Just FYI, a more comprehensive list will be provided for parents and our community soon.

Thank you to the following people who have helped/are helping our school:

- Jake for his Eagle Scout project where he painted four square, hopscotch and basketball lines on our playground
- Last year's 5th Grade Parents' for their graduation gift to the school: Balls, jump ropes, and a storage container to keep everything together when not in use
- Bella Vista Church for their work on the Hand 2 Hand project. Every Thursday, students in need receive a bag of food to take home to their families
- Bostwick Lake Congregational Church for their Kids Hope Mentoring 1:1 project. They presently have at least 12 adults in training to mentor students academically. The program will start in October or November

Vice President's Report on Community and Fundraising: Danielle Maki

7:30-7:40

Christie for Move 'n Groove:

Move 'n Groove is a walk-a-thon fundraiser that builds our budget for field trips/teacher grants/cultural arts presentations/etc. So far, we have collected about \$6000 from student pledges, and \$3700 in corporate sponsorships. We are a bit behind where we were last year at this time, and are still looking for corporate sponsors. The deadline for corporate sponsors to get their logo on our t-shirt is **Tuesday, September 19th**.

Times for the Move 'n Groove are still being decided upon. A Sign up Genius will go out as soon as they are determined. We will need volunteers the day of the Move 'n Groove.

Danielle:

- Key Card books have been sent home with students. When orders are received, Belinda will get additional books delivered in 1 week. Orders and payment are due on September 29th.
- Spirit Wear will be on sale October 23rd-November 10th. This is not a fundraiser for the school, the gear is priced at a break-even price for the sole benefit of our families and students.
- Start collecting your Box Tops! Classrooms will have a Box Tops race from October 9th-20th.
- Family Night Out is being planned right now for October. When the date/restaurant is set, we will notify via Facebook and a flyer. In this fundraiser, 10% of proceeds go back to the PTO. If we get more than 30 tables participating from Lakes, some restaurants give us 10% of the whole restaurant's earnings for the evening.
- We would like to encourage families to start using smile.amazon.com. Log in, pick your organization, **Rockford Parent & Booster Organizations Lakes Elementary Pto**, and shop as usual! This option allows the PTO to receive funds through what is spent at Amazon at no extra cost to you!

Chara for SCRIP:

This is a gift card fundraiser, with our first card order before Thanksgiving. There are many ways to utilize SCRIP, with many rechargeable, or e-card options. The gift cards make great holiday gifts, teacher gifts, etc., and between 2-18% of the total comes back to our school. Paperwork will be coming home with your student soon.

SCRIP orders for physical gift cards will be due on the following dates:

- November 7th
- December 5th
- March 13th
- May 15th

Nick Reichenbach:

Nick is on the Rockford Board of Education, and he is a visitor volunteer who will be attending our PTO meetings. He told us about a program called Developing Healthy Kids which supports mental health awareness and suicide prevention. It is geared toward older kids, but he wanted to alert us to the next meeting that is open to anyone who might need help. **October 17th**, the Developing Healthy Kids topic will be Drug Abuse.

- The Sheriff will be in attendance to collect unneeded prescription drugs as many children who abuse prescriptions first find them at home.
- Free Naloxone kits will be available to those who need them.
- The key speaker will be a survivor from the Columbine Massacre, who consequentially found himself dealing with addiction in the aftermath.
- Developing Healthy Kids is funded through the Rockford Education Foundation and businesses like Rockford Ninja Warrior, which make these programs possible without any funding from the school district.
- More information can be found @ <http://www.rockfordschools.org/school-services/developing-healthy-kids/>

Nick also brought in some amazing cookies. Thank you!!

Vice President's Report of Building/Grounds: Karla Gould 7:40-7:50pm

Karla represents us at the Interschool Advisory Committee and this has not met yet.

Fall Cleanup: Date will be chosen soon. For this, we typically spend 2 hours on a Saturday morning raking leaves and cleaning up the grounds to get ready for winter. Belinda has offered to bring a roll-off container to help us dispose of the waste.

Treasurer's Report: Amber Kaleward 7:50-7:55pm

Budget update: Not much to report for August. September is picking up with Move 'n Groove, and will have a more detailed financial report in October with those numbers.

The process of obtaining a Teacher Grant is presently being updated to better serve our teachers and students. Information about Teacher Grants will be available by October 1st.

New Business/Unfinished Business 7:55-8:00pm

- Popcorn is looking for new leaders. Contact lakesPTO@gmail.com
- Move 'n Groove is looking for ways to generate more funds
- Website confusion: Make sure that public information is updated and current, that old information is taken down. Find out about information that is posted on the Rockford Public Schools Website
- A parent suggested a "Lakes Families Facebook Group" as a way for parents to find volunteer support/substitutes and communicate amongst themselves.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm