

Mars Area Elementary PTO Meeting

April 5, 2022 MINUTES

Attendance: Jennifer Bainbride, Jen Chomicki, Lee Ann Riner, Lexie Northrop, Emily Wiley, Kiley Shine, Julie Walker, Julia Vuckovich, Rebecca Arnold, Amy Rodgers, Megan Lenz, Rebecca Baker, Bree Braunstein, Chrisi Harrison, Todd Lape, Adam Kostewicz, Melissa Gulnac, Dale Sleeva

President's Report:

Upcoming Dates: Library Week with themes each day for PC/MAE/Cent thru Fri., Apr. 8 PC "Stuff the Bus" Diaper Drive thru Fri., Apr. 8 PC Book Fair (librarian run) now thru Apr. 8 & at Open House Apr. 7 Centennial Book Fair (PTO run) now through Apr. 6 finishing with Open House Centennial Open House Wed., Apr. 6, 6-8 p.m. PC Open House Thurs., Apr. 7, 6-8 p.m. Autism Open Mic Night at HS Wed., Apr. 20 Watermelon Welcome Kindergarten Preview at PC Wed., May 4, 9:30-11am & 1-2:30pm Staff Appreciation Luncheons: PC Tues., May 3; Cent Thurs., May 5; MAE Fri., May 6 Thanks to Janelle for a successful Cent science fair with the PPG judges and the Mars Robotics team. It was cool to see them use the robots to deliver the prizes to the winning projects. Thank you to Nikki and the Pitt judges and volunteers for helping bring back the fun of the MAE science fair. The kids enjoyed their medals and talking to the scientists. Thanks to Chrisi for setting up another fun party for Cent with all the volunteers, Steve the magician, the student dj's and Smirksburg photo booth donated by Kelly Searle. The kids had a blast with everything. Thanks to Emily for another well run book fair at MAE and Mrs. Godzinski appreciated our help with this being her last fair before she retires. Currently we have the Cent book fair running for Mr. Churilla. A huge thank you to the field trip committee for all the work they have been doing to plan these trips and juggle the various challenges and changes we have experienced. Really glad that we are able to offer these again this year after not having them for 2 years. Our yearbooks are all finished and on order so we appreciate all the work Cheri, Nikki, and Rebecca did on those. As we go into staff luncheon please share on your own Facebook pages the flyers that the committee has made to help spread the word for food and monetary donations. If you can please also post it to the local class groups and bump Lee Ann's posts to get the word out since as of right now we are not sending a paper flyer to conserve the ink for the teachers' needs. Anytime Lee Ann posts, please do this to help spread the word. She has beautiful posts but the bumping helps catch ppl that ignore the school and pto emails. Lastly we will have our elections at the May meeting so attendance is important for voting reasons. If you are on the board and have not answered your survey please do so. Also if there are people you know that are interested in coming on board next year please let myself or Jennifer Logan know. As we finish out the year please update the binders in the PTO room for your events, throw out anything unneeded or move things to the storage in the basement. We are working on an idea of having you also send us details of what your positions and various event involve so that it can easily be shared with prospective or new members. We do have some bylaws discussion for the end of the meeting if you can stick around.

Approval of March Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Budget looks good. Left reports on kitchen counter, all is well with the budget.

For teachers, bank will honor checks for 6 months, so please turn in.

Donations to school update: PC \$1,754.00 (a wagon was ordered)

MAE: 4 picnic tables, 43 Doc cameras, Ice machine for nurse,

CENT: Learning centers in the works (couches, chairs for area near drop off door & teachers' pay teachers

Principal's Report:

Sleeva: Stuff the bus 4/4-4/8, open house 4/7 6-8, Field trips on track, Playground news: still working with Keystone Church due to weather, but it will get done, the kids are excited about this.

Teacher feature: Emily Slatniske

Easter baskets for children/families in need include gift card, food, basic needs,

Watermelon Welcome 5/4

Working on fundraising for student with a sibling battling cancer, dress down days all donations go to family, working on spaghetti dinner and other events to help.

Lape: 43 doc cameras received, ice machine received (HS was delivering ice and this is super helpful), Picnic tables on the way. Need invoices, PSSA Schedule 4/25-27 English 5/2-3 Math 4/5- 4th only Science

High School National Honors society providing a Steam Day for students on 4/14, will be a fun event. 6 stations for kids 45 minutes each.

Mr. K: 4th Grade transition to Centennial went well. 6th grade students nominated (20 kids) to help tour the school so they get a kids point of view. Book fair and Open house going on this week. Comic club/tutoring ending this 4/13 it was a success. 6th grade transitions to middle school 4/20-21, 8th graders will take kids around the school. Kids will walk if there is no rain, otherwise there will be a bus. JAM club started back up 8:35-9:00, Service project/Easter basket working with Lighthouse foundation after Easter this will transition into Birthday box for families in need. Reality tour, big hit with 6th grade looking for volunteers, first Thursday of the month for parents and kids at the township building. Discussion regarding dress code.

Teacher Liaison: Kiley Shine : Email read from Mrs. Kuhn confirming details for Field Day. Discussion of length of the day at PC. Approved popsicles, not confirmed if they will be able to be supplied. Teachers pay teachers is up and running, Kiley is able to see everything that teachers are viewing downloading, and using. In search of a budget for a lego table and supplies vis Dr. McMahon.

Spirit wear: Sandi and Laci have ordered more, Spring sale made upwards of \$10,000, field trip shirts are in, 6th grade will be handed out later, due to it being a surprise.

Bookfair: Michelle Krafjack, Centennial is going on now. Will be available at open house 4/6. Emily Wiley, thank you for all the help at MAE it was a success! \$22,000 in sales. Library taking cash profit of \$2,500. Another \$2,500 to PTO. Next year working on a virtual wish list. 1,400 in school account.

Centennial Spring Party Wrap up: Chrsi Harrison, party was a success, photo booth and magician were a big hit. School will be emailing our pictures. Thank you to Kelly Searle for help with photos.

Sarris Candy: Sale ends 4/10, please push posts on social. Currently at \$9,174.09 that is a \$2,293.52 profit. Last year, 12,600 in sales, 3,052 profit.

Field Trips: plugging away, on track.

Secretaries Day: 4/27 building chairs are responsible for getting \$50 giftcard and card to all secretaries.

Staff Luncheon: Mars popcorn is a go, invites to teachers soon, no coffee truck; instead snack cart up and down the halls during the day. Donations thus far \$3,374, need a social media push, approval to have contact parents send emails to class. Confirmed sending our paper copies (1/2 sheet), Rebecca Arnold will make copies at husband's office. QR code at open house for parents to scan. Remind families that any amount is appreciated.

Donuts for Bus Drivers & Admin: Need 16 dozen, Julia V thank you for volunteering to deliver on 5/6. Drop off between 7:45-8:00. Not confirmed if we are providing to admin.

Field Days: Popsicles available, current numbers in for what we need. Emily, Jenny, & Lee Ann met to confirm details and logistics. Discussion on tattoos and signing shirts. Heather Raybold, DJ's confirmed, Cent only. Mrs. Kuhn, 10 events, 11 rotations, including popsicles. Volunteers will be keeping score.

Bylaws:

Possible Bylaws Amendments for Exec Board election, Add 1 Bldg Chair at MAE & maybe Cent; Add verbiage to address special circumstances for any future pandemics idea is to allow for committee members who have consistent attendance at meetings and helping at events demonstrating leadership qualities to have the chance to be either secretary or vp if no building chairs are able or interested. In past years, we discussed this but at the time we had building chairs interested and the majority were not in favor of the idea because it was not an issue with building chairs. With the changing dynamics of the pto, we have had some committee members who have expressed interest in exec board and shown thru their events that they were committed and willing to lead. Exec board is a huge time commitment even for those 2 spots as we have extra meetings and responsibilities. We are constantly in contact going over upcoming needs and events, and any issues and concerns. We also thought of amending the bylaws, if permitted by PA non profit laws to allow an extra bldg. chair at MAE and maybe 1 at cent as well to help with the extra events they have that PC does not have. With changes to the events and fundraisers and again the changing dynamics of the bldg. chairs we have thought some extra help could be beneficial for everyone, especially in unforeseen circumstances that have required others to set in to help with more than what they signed on to do. For the verbiage regarding the pandemic, we discussed adding that if there would be another pandemic it is ok during a shut down for the treasurer to be the only person signing checks as long as photos of the checks are emailed from the treasurer's email account to the other exec board members. We also wanted to incorporate that when meeting in person

is not possible due to the pandemic or even other issues keeping people from meetings that zoom meetings can occur for the board members. All of these things need to be thought out and researched further, but we wanted your opinions before we begin to do research. If we proceed with any or all of the items the language will need to be carefully thought out before we can bring it to a vote at a special meeting, providing we give 5 days written notice as per our bylaws. We also considered doing just an addendum for the exec board elections this year as advised by a past exec board mbr, but I am not sure how that really works from research as that is more related to contracts and not a temporary issuance from what I could see. As this will take some time to work on it all please as bldg. chairs and exec board members, think about it all and please reach out with any concerns or suggestions.

Open Forum: confirmed last day of school PTO lunch and passing over of info