

Monday, October 11, 2021 6:30 meeting (MINUTES)

Board Members in Attendance: Christy Szekely, Katie Rodewald, Erin Kissinger, Jessica Biggs, Amanda Osborn, Caitlyn Demmond, Colleen Ruggiero, Kayleen Grand, Ken Slocum, Maggie Piotter, Megan Start, Nicole Reedy, Sam Loker, Tiffany Irvine

Board Members Absent: Katrina Miller, Sarah Blum, Sasha DeKam

Teacher Representatives in Attendance: Alex McCullough, Lisa Trott, Summer Walker

Teacher Representative Absent: Ashley Palmer-Vance

Parent Members in Attendance: Amanda Mollitor

Call to order: Christy at 6:33 pm

Secretary's Report: Approval of September minutes. Motion to approve by Erin and second by Ken.

Treasurer's Report: No variance. Turtle Trot money is counted, waiting on late envelopes. Motion to approve by Maggie and second by Colleen.

School News by Alex: Turtle Trot went well. The kids and staff were very excited to have the event back. Talked as staff about possible changes for next year if we have to run with modification again. Big thank you and shout out to Jen Kitchen for rolling with the changes to schedule. Conferences are virtual on 11/16 and 11/18. Halloween discussions are happening, but no official word yet. 10/29 is a half day, end of the first quarter, Turtle Trot virtual assembly and Halloween celebrations. Field trips are coming back. Staff and teachers are working together to find ways to follow school protocol and navigate the bussing situation to send kids on field trips. First grade and fifth grade will have trips this fall.

Old Business

Open house: Open house held virtually this year. Discussed how open house looks in a non-covid year. Encourage families to use these opportunities to connect with teachers and have their camera on as much as possible so families and teachers can feel connected. Many classes had poor attendance for open house meetings, which left teachers feeling frustrated.

Dining out:

- First event was at Jersey Giant. Turn out was good. Ken is getting the check out this week. Should be between \$260-300.
- Erbellis declined this year due to staffing.
- December may be a gift card event instead of dining out.
- Possible connection to Turbo Chicken for a date in February. Ken will approach owners as he is friends with them.

Turtle Trot:

- It was very fun for the kids and they were so excited! Parents and newer families were excited to experience a "normal" event. All classes were able to participate and parents and teachers were flexible with schedules adjusting due to weather. If we have to be modified next year, a whole week is too long.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped. They were long days schedule-wise. We need more volunteer help in the future.
- Counted money Sunday 10/10/21. We were missing 1 class and late envelopes. This was the best year we've had to date. Total was \$43,512 not including late donations, matching, etc.
- It was awesome to see all the teachers and staff cheering on their kids and running with their class. It was good to see other classes come out to support the running class. Mrs. Rutten's class even had a blast in the rain.
- Other notes: Consider moving the meeting after Turtle Trot back one week to allow time to count money and help set budget. Vern needs tools/wheels. Envelope design needs revising (Erin).
- We are hopeful the school will need something "big" so we can show the parents and community what we're raising money for. Sun sails or shades for the playground were discussed again. This is a project that we would like to move forward with in the future.

New Business

Family Fun Nights:

- Plan to have them about every 2 months.
- Harvest Moon Acres is first. We can join Angling Rd on 10/29/21. Tickets will be \$9 each. We can rent a fire pit for \$40. Vote to approve cost for 1 firepit rental was approved. The flier will go out soon. Maggie volunteered to copy and distribute fliers this week because she's subbing.

-Tentative places for future events: December-ice skating, February or March: Airzoo, bowling, Great Skate. Noted that Thursday nights work best for Great Skate events when there is no school Friday following the event. May/June - food trucks.

Virtual Book Fair:

-Confirmed virtual book fair will be held 10/25-11/7. Tentatively will be 2-3 more throughout the year. Should be in the Monday memo next week and teachers will have info to share after that.

Teacher Conference Dinners: Will be provided by Ken and Jersey Giant. Reminder to use water out of PTO closet.

Spirit Wear:

-Supply chain issues are causing shirt size/color issues. The Spirit Shoppe is trying to find a way to work with us to overcome supply issues. A general update will go out in the newsletter. Considering a possible pre-order.

Additional Items:

- Discuss possible special election next month to fill empty seats on board.
- Terracycle will not be happening this year.
- Mileage club info will be in the Monday Memo next week. It will be 6 weeks in the fall, normal length for spring.
- Newsletter topics will include donor dollars, field trips, Turtle Trot recap and info on Family Fun day.

Upcoming Events

- October 29 - Family Fun day at Harvest Moon Acres, Turtle Trot virtual assembly, Halloween celebrations, ½ day
- November 12- Picture retakes and decorate your mask spirit day
- November 16 and 18 - Virtual teacher conferences

Comments, Questions, Concerns?

Checks: All Checks MUST be made out to Portage Lake Center PTO, Inc.

Next Meeting - November 8, 2021 at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourns: 7:47pm motion Erin, second Tiffany