Portage Lake Center PTO, Inc.

Monday, November 14, 2022 6:30 meeting (MINUTES)

**Board Members in Attendance:** Christy Szekely, Amanda Molitor, Colleen Ruggiero, Jessica Biggs, Amanda Osborn, Erika Shoemaker, Kaitlyn Hicks, Kassidy Niuwenhuis, Ken Slocum, Laura Bedore, Maggie Campbell, Maggie Piotter, Rachel Lafler, Rachel Myland, Sam Loker, Sarah Blum, Tiffany Irvine

**Board Members Absent**: Erin Kissinger, Kayleen Grand

**Teacher Representatives in Attendance:** Alex McCullough, Summer Walker, Lisa Trott, Ashley Palmer-Vance

**Call to order**: Christy at 6:34pm.

**Secretary’s Report**: Approval of October minutes. Motion to approve by Ken and second by Colleen.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Waiting on receipts for Turtle Trot Made about 50 thousand on Turtle Trot. Budgets will be going up because costs for everything have gone up. Discussed possible venmo account for PTO use. Colleen will look into this more. Motion to approve by Jessica and second by Amanda M.

**School News** by Alex: It has been a busy month. Conferences went well. There was a good number for parent turnout. Sherman Lake trip is coming up for 5th grade. Halloween parade and Trunk or treat went really well. There are a lot of busy weeks ahead leading up to winter break. Still working on outdoor classroom proposal.

**Old Business**

Turtle Trot: Raised over $50,000. Prizes were delayed due to shipping issues. They went home 11/7. Top prize day on 11/4 went well.

Mileage Club: Added 1 week in the spring because of a Wednesday off during the previously scheduled time frame. Everything ended up going well. Kids were very excited to see it back.

Erbelli’s Dining Out: Greg rounded the total earned up to $300. Excellent turnout and results for the last minute switch.

Trunk or Treat: Had over 500 kids come through. We ran out of candy very early and had to get more during the event. Need to look into alternative ways to fund the event and make sure there are activities for the line. Also may look at incorporating other things into the event in the future.

Picture Retakes: Went well and very smooth. Suggestion to print out the absent list from picture day to make sure they get all kids photos taken.

Conference Dinners: Went over well with staff. Possible SUG to help with drinks and desserts to help cut down on costs.

**New Business**

Folk Dance Night: Amanda O got cider and donuts donated, Mrs. Ropp wants no chairs, sanitizer stations and donuts separate from cider to keep line flowing.

Movie Night: Friday 11/18. Plan to buy concessions this week and get enough for both movie nights. The next one is 12/2 and will be The Rise of Gru. Flyers will go home 11/22.

STEM night: December 13. Budget has been increased to $1000. Kayleen is working to get high school students to volunteer. Collecting toilet paper and paper towel rolls for hands on projects.

Battle of the Books: Books were delivered to classrooms and library today. Each 4th and 5th grade classroom got a set and 2 for the library. We have 17 teams participating.

Gift to the School - Therapy Dog: Summer presented info on purchasing a therapy dog for Lake Center. There has been an increase in social-emotional needs for students. Staff were overwhelmingly in support of a comfort dog. Interquest is the company we would purchase the dog through. They require a $1000 non refundable deposit and then the balance of $5500 due in 4-18 months when the dog is finished training. Several staff members have stepped up to house the dog and provide backup care when needed. Interquest comes in to make sure the dog is a good fit for our school and our handlers. They also come back to retrain if needed at a cost of $200 per day. Many other schools already have comfort dogs so the district is coming up with some policies for how to use and handle the care of the dogs. Once we purchase the dog, it would be owned by PPS. All further decisions regarding care would come from them. There has been positive feedback from the schools who already have these animals in place. Requesting the funds for the dog, plus 2 budget line items – one for $1000 for food and one for $1000 for care and grooming yearly.

Kassidy motioned to approve $6500 for the dog. Erika 2nd the motion. Unanimously voted approved.

Motion for line item $1000 for grooming/vet from Tiffany, 2nd by Amanda O. Unanimous vote approved.

Motion for line item $1000 for food from Kassidy, 2nd by Ken. Unanimous vote approved.

**Upcoming Events**

Nov 15 – Folk Dance night

Nov 17 – Dining out at Ritter’s

Nov 18 – Movie Night

Dec 2 – Movie Night

Dec 13 – STEM night

Jan 19 – Skate Night

Jan 27 – Game Night

Feb 13 – Battle of the Books

Feb 20 – Grand Battle

**Comments, Questions, Concerns?**

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

**Next Meeting – January 16, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Media Center. Childcare provided**

**Deadlines: December newsletter – 11/18, January Newsletter – 12/16**

**Meeting Adjourns: 7:36pm** motion Maggie C, second Ken.