

PTA Meeting minutes

November 2, 2015

Board Members Present: Shelly Barratt, Suzanne Vandenberg, Angie Brown, Amy O'Reilly

Board Member not Present: Mike Doleac

Approximate member attendance: 15

The meeting commenced at 8:20am.

Suzanne welcomed everybody and showed an online demo of the new Directory Spot application. It is easy to navigate and use by household or by class. If you notice that there is something incorrect within the Directory, please get in touch with Suzanne Vandenberg or Liz Myers.

Shelly discussed the Apex fundraiser. The previous fall PTA fundraiser was Travel Clean Car Wash which was owned by a local family who gave us a generous, convenient option. Once Travel Clean changed ownership, the PTA Board decided to investigate other options. APEX came out of this process. Shelly showed a comparison sheet which showed that the pros of the fundraiser (vs. Travel Clean) were: Higher % of proceeds to PPES (60%, plus incentives for kids and classrooms), higher net profit (7-8x Travel Clean's historical net), donations are fully tax deductible, students received leadership and fitness lessons, all students were included, and it was easier from a parent volunteer point of view (and parents really resist volunteering for fundraising). Parley's made \$42k from the Apex Fun Run! We noticed that the donations came from a large geographic area (grandparents, etc.) which we believe contributed to the success. This cannot be done with a more "local" fundraiser. It's a tough at this time of year with all of the PTA's, PCEF, sports/arts teams and nonprofits doing their fundraisers, so the geographical dispersion of donors was a plus.

A survey about the Apex Fun Run will arrive in your inbox during the next few days. Please take the survey!

Jump-rope/Hoops for Heart is a school (not PTA) fundraiser. We don't have control over it, and it may/may not happen this year. If you have thoughts to contribute to this discussion, please let Mr. Gomez know. It was pointed out that Ms. Wheelwright may really want to do it again because it has been so successful in the past. Members expressed concern that the PTA doing the Fun Run may impact Hoops/Jump-rope for Hearts and/or Running With Ed. The PTA's hope is that Apex supports RWE rather than competes. Some members also worry about the Apex timing vis-a-vis Beat the Call.

Shelly showed the most recent PTA budget. She highlighted new items including: playground equipment which seems to need an upgrade every year (\$0.5k), classroom supplies

for teacher wish lists (\$3k), Apex Fun Run classroom credits (\$7k straight to teachers), DirectorySpot (\$0.6k), higher Teacher Appreciation (\$2k), Mini Grants [\$27.5k total which include \$12.5k for an ELA Specialist to help teachers with the new language arts curriculum, \$5k for the District PTA Planetarium Project, \$5k for School projects (IXL, water bottle station, and iPad cleaning supplies), and \$5k for Teacher Mini Grants (science workshops, drum bus, laptop headphones).]

Mr. Gomez reviewed some recent successes at our school. He discussed our Title I status and the fact that we recently received national recognition as one of the Title I Progress Schools. Out of 300 Title 1 schools, 45 made this list.

He shared Galileo scores 2nd-5th grades. The charts showed Beginning of Year, Middle of Year and End of Year scores. The focus is individual growth vis-a-vis the common core curriculum for that grade. The growth shown is very steep in “Below Proficient” students and “Proficient” students for both Language Arts and Math. All grades showed similar trends except for 4th grade which was flat to down for ELA. They are looking into it and working on it. Growth in Math/Science score good for 4th grade was consistent with other grades.

We still have challenges (students ending the year below proficient) but most students are experiencing growth. Galileo testing results are highly correlated to the SAGE testing, our true end of year benchmark for the common core.

Our teacher (Mrs. Bott) representative discussed her feelings about the Galileo testing/feedback. She really likes it. It is very detailed and a lot to process. But it gives her the power to focus her teaching. It's a valuable tool.

The SAGE results for last May are available. School-wide results are online and individual results were sent home. If you don't have your child's, see the front office.

Mr. Brewer is our new 5th grade teacher to replace Lori Drivdahl who moved to Ecker Hill. He previously taught 5th grade at Weilenmann. Welcome to Mr. Brewer.

Chair Updates:

Fun Fall Fest. Shelly discussed this event – a big success and community-builder. We were able to offer some of our lower-income student families passes and many did come. The event was break-even by design. Thank you Shelly and Suzanne!

Spirit Wear was also designed to be breakeven. Next week the items will arrive. Bring in brown garbage bags to use for spirit wear orders if you have them. Thank you Jules!

Book Fair. Amy gave a book fair update. Wendy, Amy and Ted Clayton brought in \$10.5 in scholastic money of which we kept \$6k. Each teacher received \$150 to spend on Scholastic items at the fair or online (based on last year's sales volume). Because we are

only doing one book fair this year we are only going to be able to give teachers \$38 each in credits *next year*. If you have opinions about that, let the PTA board know. \$3,500 of the proceeds buys newsletters for the whole school. Ms. Bott is certain that the majority of teachers would like to keep this vs. having a larger book credit. Members suggested that we can use the book fair “wish list” to supplement the much lower teacher budget next year. We could also use “real dollars” to buy curriculum-related books at the Scholastic Warehouse where there are directly relevant books and significant discount opportunities available certain times of year. Thank you Amy, Wendy and Ted!

Teacher Appreciation. Christa Graff gave an update. During parent-teacher conference weeks we provide food for teachers (Oct & Feb). May is national teacher appreciation week and we provide day-time meals. We also give teachers, aids, custodians, and lunch staff end of the year gifts. Due to district rules, we can no longer ask for donations from the community for these gifts so we have to purchase them outright and that’s why the budget went up. Thank you Christa and Catherine!

Student Council. We had a successful and fun Spook Alley. We are ordering t-shirts this year for the first time in a few years. Students designed the shirts and they arrive this week. The next project is Spirit Week. Box Tops just finished and we have about \$200 worth coming in December. Save your box tops for next time. Thank you Jill, Alison, Christa, Liz, Meg, and all of the parent/student volunteers.

Art (MIA and EVA). Ms. Melissa (Allen) is doing the majority of art but the PTA art committee kept a few MIA projects. In the Spanish Leveled Reading room we have the MIA bins with ~3 projects available for each grade. We have a chair for each classroom who will work in 2-3 projects each year. Melissa needs help NOW for her EVA kite project. It’s complex because of the new specialist rotations and the fact that parents generally want to help with their own child’s class. Thanks fantastic art chairs!!

Upcoming Events. Spirit Week, Zupa’s night (low-key fundraiser, 20% comes back to us), Spelling Bee (Dec 1) and Science Fair (Jan 21)

Don’t forget to vote today!

Energy Fitness/Summit County Power Works. Shelly shared the initiative in general and our success to date. This is a 5-year project and we are winning so far. We will be sending tidbits each newsletter so keep your eyes open and share them with your kids.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40.

