

# PTO Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019

-The meeting was called to order by Amanda Ortega at 6:33pm

-The pledge of allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.

-Attendees:

Staff-Dr. Veracco, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Skipper, Miss Smoter, Mrs. Kacius and Mrs. Mackowiak

Parents-Brittney Brewer, Amanda Ortega, Denise Meseberg, Karen Johnson, Beth Dennert, Jynx Steele, Melissa Wojno, Becky Smotrilla, Katy Waldrop, Bob Starkey and Julie Rodriguez

Dr. Veracco was the first to speak-

He began by thanking all of the parents and staff for attending the meeting and being so involved and committed to the school. He discussed the modulars being moved out from next to the school in the future. He also discussed the recent growth of St. John and the overcrowding that their elementary school will face in the future. The district will utilize their architect to look at the smaller schools (like Bibich) to see where classroom and cafeteria space can be added. The last resort option would be to redistrict but there are no plans for this in the near future.

The recently passed referendum was also discussed by Dr. Veracco. The monies used from this referendum will be applied towards: increasing teacher salaries and insurance, add to counseling services, add 2 school resource officers, and improve graduation pathways. Dr. Veracco stated that internships for high school students will now become a state mandate. There is also proposed legislation that active shooter drills are required once/month. Dr. Veracco said an active shooter drill takes approximately 3 hours and can be very time consuming and disruptive to the learning process. The schools currently perform regular lockdown drills which take about 15 min. He is working hard to maintain open communications with our local constituent. Dr. Veracco said a proposed budget would be available and the end of May/June.

Parents asked Dr. Veracco why there are no sidewalks leading to Bibich. One answer was that because Hart is so busy it isn't safe. The other response was that the fields around Bibich belong to the town. Mrs. Logan also said that our school is not a safe walkable school and that buses are the preferred method of transportation. Another parent had concerns about dropping off her child for before school tutoring-either the parent didn't know the staff member receiving their child or there was no one there to accept the child. Mrs. Logan said she felt like there was adequate staff for drop off but stated the issue could be looked at to see if there was a better way to identify staff members.

-The September meeting minutes were approved by Brittney and Amanda.

- Denise gave a financial update
  - We made \$799 on Box tops.
  - The Walk-a-Thon generated \$9,196
  - The Fun Fair generated \$1,329
  - Bakers Square gift cards \$352
  - Texas Roadhouse \$813

- Melissa gave a Box Top update
  - We are rapidly approaching our next submission date.
  - Teachers will continue collecting Box Tops until Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and at that time they will receive a large yellow envelope. The money earned from our Box Top collection will go toward the general fund. Brittney commended Melissa on her hard work and great progress with this project.

-Brittney stated that the Fun Fair is open to chair next year if anyone is interested. Karen, Beth and Brittney have done the Fun Fair for the last 2 years and are anxious to hand the reigns over to someone else who has new and exciting ideas. They have a binder of information and are available to help the new chair(s). In addition, someone asked why the high school honor students didn't help at the Fun Fair. Karen informed the group that they found them to be less helpful and reliable in the previous year and chose not to use them.

-Rebecca wasn't available to give an update on our next Gift Card offering. It is believed that it may be Domino's Pizza.

-Amanda discussed Dine Out Nights. Our first one will take place at the end of the month and is coinciding with our recent gift card sales. The Dine Out Night will take place on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Texas Roadhouse, watch for blue paper coming home with more information. Amanda hopes to have 1-2 more events by the end of the year.

-Becky offered an update on the upcoming dance. We still need more chaperones, please put something in the newsletter asking for more help. Parents are supposed to stay for this event and watch their children. The idea of having the Book Fair opened was discussed by Jynx. Jynx willing to have the Book Fair open during the dance provided we have enough volunteers. Jynx also stated she didn't want to take any potential help away from the dance. It was also discussed that the dance is a free event and that we are now asking parents to bring money. Becky also expressed concern that kids may throw their books on the floor in the gym and they may get lost/mixed up, etc. It was decided to hold off on having the Book Fair at the dance for this year. If better planned, we may be able to do it in the future.

- Book Fair
  - Set up Begins January 25<sup>th</sup> after school
  - Clifford costume will be used to help get the kids excited
  - Jynx is looking for volunteers now

- \$5 discount for teachers and volunteers
- Jynx also mentioned Scholastic offers a few small cases that could be opened and used during the Fun Fair as a way to generate a little more income

#### - Penny Wars

- Rebecca not available for update but working on it

#### - 40<sup>th</sup> Event

- Will happen on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Spaghetti dinner with a salad, garlic bread and cake
- Tickets are on sale online \$10 for adults, \$8 for kids
- They are looking at placing a few signs in yards to help generate buzz about the event
- Open to all current and former staff/students/families
- They will be able to tour the school when they come
- Each class is working on a banner for each decade
- Will need volunteers, most of the staff are helping
- The students have been getting quizzed on 1978 trivia on Fridays

#### - Ladies Night Out

- Will take place on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Plum Creek Center in Dyer
- Will be playing Bunko
- Contact Amanda if you want to help
- Will be looking for donations for prize baskets

#### - Buddy Bench

- Still sorting, have sorted about 280lbs, we need 450 for 2 benches. Have all we need, just need to sort and wash. Company was contacted and our account is still active. Mrs. Logan stated there is no rush as the front of the school will be undergoing construction over the summer.

#### - Talent Show

- Will take place week of May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Was requested for teachers to perform the finale
- Katy working on this event

#### - Teacher Appreciation Week

- Week of May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Teacher input was asked for what they would like
- PTO sponsors 3 days
- Food and spa were requested

#### - Read to Succeed

- Karen Johnson to take over
- Six Flags tickets

#### - Blue Ribbon Award

- Would like to reward students and staff for great accomplishment

- Have \$1000 budget motioned by Becky and approved by Katy
- Would like T-shirts for staff with Blue Ribbon school logo
- Discussed a cookie for the kids, Mrs. Mackowiak mentioned something more tangible for the students like a keychain or something with the Blue Ribbon logo
- Amanda and Brittney working on this
- March 7<sup>th</sup> Grandparent/Special Person's Night
- April 10<sup>th</sup> Student Spotlight Night
  - Will include artwork this year
- Board Position
  - There is an open board position for the next school year
  - It is the treasurer's position
  - Contact Mrs. Logan if interested
  - Will vote at the last meeting of the year-May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Lack of sidewalks was again discussed at the end of the meeting. Becky discussed the history of Bibich and that some of land used to belong to a church and once it was sold, new owners were not allowed to redevelop it.
  
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:43