

University Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes September 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Shannon Starks.

I. Minutes Approval from August 20, 2013.

II. Treasurer's Report

Kerry McGarry reported on income for July/August. Pizza X donated \$50.00, Classroom Supplies \$50.00, Skate Night \$115. T-shirt sales brought in \$800.00. Shannon reminded us to recognize Western Skateland for opening up a Skate Night for University School in August because they are well attended! Mrs. McClaine reported soon there will be an online site where families can order University merchandise (license plate covers, t-shirts, etc.). A portion of the money spent on the merchandise will come to University School and will be designated for the PTO. Michelle Burns suggested incorporating other fundraising/school support days into the school year like perhaps a stand alone pizza night or a School Spirit Day. Natalie Kubat has finished updating the directories and they are at the printer. We ordered 200 copies this year as last year we had many leftover when we ordered 300. The directories cost us \$1.00 to print and are sold to families for \$3.00. They will be available soon for purchase in the office.

III. Principal's Report

Mrs. McClaine reported University Elementary is receiving I-Pads for two more grades this school year. Second graders and 5th graders will begin using their I-Pads in January 2014. First graders and fourth graders are already using I-Pads that were incorporated last school year. ISTEP data for grades 3-6 is available. Parents should be able to access their student's results using the login information sent home to them last year. The final summary data is coming soon and Mrs. McClaine will keep everyone posted. NWEA starts this week for 2-6 grades. Testing is three weeks long and done in the computer lab. It is a benchmark system that checks on students' progress throughout the year. The three areas tested are Reading, Language, and Math. Students test for 45 minutes to one hour at a time. Mrs. McClaine thanked Michelle Burns and PTO for Open House. It was successful and the families and students all seemed to enjoy the Pizza Supper. It was held earlier this year and teachers commented they liked it better later in the year when there was more student work to display. Mrs. McClaine said therefore they will consider pushing it back to October next year if possible.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Pizza Supper Wrap-up: A big thanks to Michelle Burns and volunteers! We brought in \$2500 this year, (\$3000 last year). Ideas for next year: try negotiating cheaper price on pizzas, additional cashier, separate the desserts to their own table to cut down on congestion in the food line, and charge \$1.00 for each dessert to eliminate need for silver change. Reminder: Pizza X points are located on boxes of Pizza X Pizza! Please bring them in! Mrs. McClaine reminds teachers to send down Box tops, Pizza X points, and other fundraising clippings on Fridays. Winners are announced on list serve every month, over the intercom at school, and also given 10 extra minutes at recess! We made close to \$2000 from Box Tops last year. The idea came up to trim Box Tops during PTO meetings. Michelle and Stacy will make a poster about Box Tops and post on PTO bulletin board. Dana is volunteer coordinator. She will send out information about volunteers for every event. Rebecca Timmons is overseeing Dining for Dollars this year. Reminder: to make an announcement, write it out for Paris and ask to be placed on list serve for your event. Mrs. McClaine reviews them all to ensure they are appropriate for the list serve.
- b. Fall Campaign: The fall campaign consists of asking families to contribute money instead of selling items to raise money for PTO. The fall campaign runs from October 1st- November 1st. Fall campaign forms will be sent home with each student to have the parents sign with their level of contribution. The student is asked to bring form back regardless if the family donates to the fall campaign or not. Classes that have 100% of their forms returned will earn a free recess. Students will each earn a little prize (University pencil) for returning his/her individual form as well. Natalie sent around a sign-up sheet to help count money and write receipts that first week of the fall campaign (10/3-10/4, and week of 10/7).

Reminder: Remember to include grandparents, neighbors, University Alumni, when asking for donations for the fall campaign!

1. Goal: Last year we raised \$11,700
 2. Incentives: pencils for each student who returns form, and free recess
- c. International Potluck - November 8th
1. Committee chair- Thao, Annu, Vicki, Amy, and Cheryl are helping organize this event. Additional volunteers were also secured for this event.
 2. Talent- international talent (student and family talents, African drum music, Japanese dance, etc.) Event will be exceeded. One issue brought up was the need to handle water for the event. The coolers used last year leaked and water pitchers on tables need refilling. It was suggested to ask international markets in town or even families to donate bottles of water for the event. The food is always amazing although sometimes runs out for people who arrive late. Putting out food in shifts was another idea. PTO provides paper products to eat on/with. In terms of talent for the talent show, really want to focus on cultural talents (including American families!). A reminder that persons with disabilities is also a culture to remember and perhaps displaying artwork would be another way to include persons with disabilities.

V. Upcoming Events

- a. Skate Night—Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 to 8:30
- b. Fall Campaign –October 1st through November 1st
- c. Next PTO Meeting—Tuesday, October 8th; 6:30 to 7:30

VI. Comments/Questions:

Other ideas brought up during this meeting include having a UES Talent night, movie nights as school fundraiser at the school, another pizza dinner, Drive-In Movie Night

Playground committee needed: 2015 projected date; quotes which include surfacing and some equipment: \$40-50K, mulch vs. rubberized surface (as in Kindergarten playground). Perhaps we should consider including community project funded as playgrounds are used by surrounding neighborhoods as well

PTO Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm