

Meeting was called to order by Rebecca Wheeler.

President's Report - Denise Swanson

Denise said thank you to the following committee chairs for their hard work over the past month: Holiday shoppe- Angie Lawrence and Tracey Cutler, Holiday Bazaar- Rebecca Wheeler, Barnes and Noble- Linda Lindeman and Chris Weede, Panera fundraiser- Jerilyn Alport, and Lice bags- Lori Cichy.

Treasurer's Report - Lori Cichy

The book fair is off to a good start, half way toward goal. We should make about 4 hundred dollars off of this December fundraiser. The holiday bazaar and holiday shoppe did very well. Market day is struggling this year. Spirit Wear is 1/2 way toward goal. Lice Bags were not meant to be a fundraiser, but there was some spare change from each of the bags that made the PTO some money.

In expenses, we bought some colored paper, more teachers used their 100 dollars, and we are having an assembly tomorrow. Need to pay the performer.

Candice Utley motioned to approve the finances, Laurence Kastein seconded the motion.

Principal's Report - Rick Herrejon

It is time for examining our benchmark assessments. Katherine Joy and Rick Herrejon took a preliminary look at the assessment data and initially it looks good at every grade level. Next step is to sit down with grade teams and prepare for the testing season.

The teachers will prepare the students for the state tests and identify which students need more help. Patty Wydra asked about Study Island and Rick answered saying there will be study island offered, just not to all students. Kids who have a harder time reading will be eliminated from study island. Those children will receive specialized help. The school will be targeting a specific group of kids (about 40 kids) in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Will we be exposing the testing format to 3rd graders? YES! There is a debate how to expose (paper or computer). Mr. Herrejon and the teachers are looking into who can do the study island and with what support.

Teacher's Report - Carol Tomlinson

Kindergarten: In reading we are finishing Jolly phonics and are ready to read! Math: - we are working on missing number activities to continue to build on number sense.

First: Measurement in inches, temperature, et. Daily Five - Read to self, read with a partner, word work, write to self, & listen to literature. Making connections, and checking for understanding.

Second: Working on Theme 3 in the reading series. Focus skills are Author's purpose and comparing fiction and non fiction. Math - Geometry unit - 2D & 3D shapes, parallel lines, line segments, points, quadrangles. We do many interesting projects which will be saved for our portfolio.

Third: Math-Students are very excited about learning multiplication! The next unit is place value and decimals. Science - new unit is Earth systems, Rocks/minerals, weather & rock cycle.

Fourth: Wrapping up colonial times with a culminating activity: Colonial Days. (students & teachers dress up, make crafts, play colonial games, and attend a session with a special speaker)

Fifth: Started Human Growth & Development unit and will finish prior to Winter Break. In support of Human Growth and Development, the 5th graders will complete a “change project” that will demonstrate internal & external changes they have gone through in their life. Students enjoyed holiday Shoppe (thank you)

LMC: 4th grade has finished their 1st research report on a US state, 5th is studying pop-up artist Robert Sabuda, K-3 are halfway thru their Monarch Book Award titles Bluestem totals as of Dec. 12 - 3rd-5th grade is 592 successfully passed quizzes. Copies of those 20 books are identified at public libraries and bookstores.

Art: 1st - winter painting textures (sponge & brush paintings), 2nd -Vincent Van Gogh (Starry Night), 3rd- Pen & ink drawings - cold colors, 4th - Charcoal landscapes (look at American Art), 5th - clay slab sculpture (mirror designs)

PE: All students have been working very hard with tumbling and feats of strength unit. Students have learned animal walks, forward roll, cartwheel, round off and other moves. Students have also had climbing wall challenges, rope climbing, flexed arm hang challenge and towel wrestling. Next week students are going to get fit with Wii “Just Dance”

Committee Reports: Patty Wydra

Assembly: Chris Fascione is giving a presentation tomorrow (12/14) on bringing Literature to Life. The program at 9:30 will be for grades K-2 and the 10:30 program will be for grades 3-5. There are two more assembly’s planned. In March, we will host Justin and Liam, Smart parts for the younger grades and you write the songs for the older grades. In May Longfellow will host Kid Power: Operation Lunch Line.

Barnes & Noble: No numbers yet, but there were lots of people from Longfellow who attended! Thank you!

Bingo Night: We are continuing to get donations.

Birthday Books: Names went out and kids are enjoying picking out a “special book”

Box Tops: Laurence Kastein asked how will we receive the check? Rebecca Wheeler said they will go to the mailboxes and Lori Cichy will let Laurence know the amount of the check when it comes.

Holiday Shoppe/Holiday Bazaar: We did well - see the financials - Patty Wydra proposed that there be more than one day for the children to shop. This is because there were complaints that the halls were too crowded with more than one class shopping at a time.

Ice Cream Charity Fundraiser: Dipping Dotts filed for bankruptcy and so we are looking at other suppliers. Looking at Mariano’s and almost everything is exactly the same - same price - make a decent profit. Next question is where should the donation go to? St. Judes, Children’s memorial, or make a wish? Culvers was also discussed to be a supplier.

Market Day - November raised \$157 and in December it is approximately \$200.

Movie night : January 27th. More details at the next meeting.

Parent University - Still waiting on news of the topic and date. Vice Presidents have not received information from the committee chair.

Parent/Daughter: In April.

Restaurant Fundraiser: Panera at the beginning of this month. We should be getting the check while on break. Not sure of the numbers. On 12/30, 12/31, and 1/1 The 30's pizza will be doing a fundraiser. 20% will be going back to the PTO. Bring your sheet in!

Room Parent : will be focusing on Valentines day parties after the break.

Savings Card - board is working on it. We hope to have something done in January and hopefully get the card out for sales in February.

New business:

The PTO website will be under construction over the holidays. Anything specific you want to see on the website, please send to Denise Swanson or Rebecca Wheeler for approval and then they will send it to Sarah Knauf.

Candice Utley got an advertisement in her Kindergarten's folder about construction. She has been trying to get her fundraiser for K.H.Kim Tae kwon do studio. Wants to let people know about a free party with pizza - 2 week trial - Wants to put this in the newsletter. Executive board feels that it will open the door to have people wanting to advertise anything. The board also questions the liability issues? We wanted all advertisements to be funneled through the district, but now the district wants us to endorse the flyer.

Denise swanson brought up the tax levy increase issue that will be discussed at the December 15th board meeting. Decided to send out an eblast to let families know about the District Board meeting.

Laurence Kastein motioned to adjourn.