

KETTLE LAKE PTO

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Christy Morehouse, President

January 31, 2023

In person meeting - Cafeteria

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Kettle Lake PTO to support quality education for the children of Kettle Lake Elementary School.

In Attendance:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Megan Ballmer | Jen LaPorte |
| Christy Morehouse | Sandy de la Barrera |
| Kelli Bonnell | Niki Frontjes |
| Amanda Rasche | Jenna Hurless |
| Holly Blough | Amanda Theisen |
| Erin Hedges | Amy Hoss |
| Stehanie Shepherd | Leah Smith |
| Crystal Hurst | Jessica Riedl |
| Nancy Dryburgh | Emily Boland (virtual) |
| Jen French | |

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the November 2022 meeting were approved and are available on the KL PTO website.

Updates from Mrs. Ballmer:

Mrs. Ballmer talked about Capturing the Hearts and how well it is going. They recently had a ½ day collaboration with staff to check in on what's going well/not well. They discussed some fun things and upping their game, specifically with affirmations. They have some themed ideas for each month - student to affirm teachers, class to class affirmations, and having parents get involved.

Cougar Kids FROYO was today. Pictures are taken and then displayed for the entirety of the following month. Cougar of the Month will be announced tomorrow (Feb 1st) - kids are loving it.

Conferences are NEXT WEEK. Staff and teachers are in prep mode and ready.

She introduced the SECOND grade teachers - an awesome team. Works together amazingly and even dress alike often! These teachers have an awesome spot - right in the middle of lower and upper EL - a big year for students. Second grade is the "quiet" class in the lunchroom and enjoy being told what good role models they can be.

Second grade teachers talked about "Twos" day coming up! They will be celebrating twos, pairs, etc. on 2/22! A day where they will set aside "normal" curriculum for a day and have fun and learn in a different way. Wear tutus, tube socks, work in/with pairs - all about the number TWO for second grade. Lots of fun with it.

PTO Budget (Erin Hedges and Stephanie Shepherd):

Stephanie is officially taking over! She has been taking time to learn the accounts, spreadsheets, etc.

- ❖ NOTE: Teachers spend - have \$4,800 budgeted, only "used" \$774 - remind them to submit receipts in April.

Making some moves from the originally approved budget:

- ❖ Reading month committee wants to bring in a speaker so we plan to use assembly monies for that.
 - Erin proposes to move \$1,000 from Assemblies to Reading Month (now \$3,500). Kelli seconds. Voted yes by all - passed.
- ❖ Fourth Grade Celebration - last year used Assembly money, so this year we don't have funds.
 - Stephanie proposes to move \$1,200 from the reserves (so an add to the overall total budget) for Fourth Grade Celebration. Erin seconds. Voted by all - passed.
 - Next year this will be a budgeted line item from the start.
- ❖ Watchdog program is not in use this year (Mrs. Ballmer confirmed these funds were for food services for the program, not training) and funds are needed for the Learning Garden maintenance - mulch specifically.
 - Erin proposes to move \$350 from Watchdog to Learning Garden. Kelli seconds. Voted yes by all - passed.

Committee Reports :

- Book Fair (Oct. and Feb.) - Leah Smith/Kelli Bonnell
 - ◆ Book Fair is next week during conferences
 - ◆ We still need volunteers - it's lots of fun - join us!
- Spirit Wear- Amanda Theisen
 - ◆ \$438 made for the school
 - ◆ Will offer a lower price point shirt next year
- Direct you Dollars- Amanda Theisen
 - ◆ Amanda isn't loving this program; just not bringing in receipts anymore and doesn't seem to be enough money earned for the amount of work
 - ◆ May want to bring in a new program - sell cookies?! Amanda would run this, if we did decide...
 - ◆ Leah - we should run this idea by the parents. We've always had the Walk A Thon with the message that we wouldn't do "sales" fundraisers - make sure they want to do this.
 - ◆ Holly - we could caveat the Walk A Thon with something like - if we don't hit our goal, we'll do a fundraiser that will involve sales - whether its cookies, wreaths, flowers, etc.
 - ◆ Definitely need to talk more about this one at future meetings
- Key Communicator- Amanda Theisen & Leah Smith
 - ◆ Meeting this coming Thursday - promoting bond!
 - ◆ Bond is mostly for Dutton, but also football field, CalPlex, etc

- ◆ Bond has been voted on, but if anyone is interested in supporting this bond - the meeting is at the admin building at 6pm
- Shop with Script- Erin Hendges
 - ◆ Not worth it - only 2% return - not doing anymore
- Learning Garden- Molly Carl, Erin Hendges, Amy Hoss
 - ◆ Boy Scouts are going to come in for 3 hours on a weekend to clean up and mulch
 - ◆ One of the Boy Shouts (Eagle) wants to build a shed next year
 - ◆ Eagle Scouts (Dalton) is making a Creative Kitchen
 - ◆ Cougar Kids are going to plant and clean up the beds
 - ◆ Second Grade Teachers - The sandbox needs sand! We have \$2,500 in playground maintenance - we can cover sand!
- Coupon Books (Key Card) - Christy Morehouse
 - ◆ 160 books sold - \$4,800 in sales and we get half
 - ◆ The student get a lot of benefits - pizza party, gift card, more
- Moms and Mr.'s- Amber Solar and Kelly Nicholas
 - ◆ Amber (not present but sent email to update) met with the district committee last week.
 - ◆ Dance is on April 29th. Theme is going to be a glow dance. Food trucks starting at 5:30, dance from 6-8. Save the dates in February; information with ticket buying options right after Spring Break.
 - ◆ Need to find out the location!
- Carnival/Family Night- Jenna Hurless and Niki Frontjes
 - ◆ Date proposed of Friday, May 19th - some discussion here about if Friday is best (yes) and a few "community" events this weekend, but date confirmed
 - ◆ Tweaking event some - two obstacle courses instead of slide (NEED volunteers this year)
 - ◆ Will still have face painting, cake walk, balloon animals, etc
 - ◆ Wristbands will include hot dog, chips and a drink (no food trucks this year)
 - ◆ Will still have snow cones!
 - ◆ Baskets!
 - Will do themed baskets
 - Discussion regarding doing per class or per grade
 - The committee will send signups to teachers and each will get to pick their theme. Room parents will coordinate putting baskets together. They will be urged to use a sign up for specific items wanted for the basket.
 - No alcohol allowed in baskets per school rules
 - Sandy - idea for more auction items - have parents come in and do crafts with kids then those items are put up for auction
 - Niki and Jenna attempted to go to the community for donations for auction last year and did not get much participation at all!

→ TerraCycle - Jamie Ryder and Amy Hoss

- ◆ Amy Hoss has exchanged some emails with Jamie, but not started anything yet
- ◆ Stephanie - we received a check for \$83

→ Cougar Kids Care Club - Amy Hoss

- ◆ Children's Heart Foundation was the most recent organization supported
- ◆ Service project - just made blankets for Vets; next time will be making small blankets for kids at the hospital
- ◆ Kids Food basket (March) - they have a big week that corresponds with the next treats and trinket sale
 - Kids Food Basket will send a video to kick the week off and another for each day. Teachers will show these videos to the students to learn about the program and childhood hunger.
 - Will also collect food at the school for this week
 - Friday will be "Wear Orange" day for \$1. Amy would love to have Thursday be a theme day - teachers love not distracting days - like PJ day!
- ◆ Will have a field trip at the end of the year - date TBD
- ◆ Could use more help specifically running Treats and Trinkets tables!

→ Teacher Appreciation- Jen LaPorte

- ◆ February Supply Refresh - Jen is getting goodies and some money to buy some goodies as well
- ◆ We've had one meeting to get started on May Teacher Appreciation Week as well
- ◆ Amanda is doing a sign up for dinner on Tuesday next week for conferences, PTO will cover ordering for Thursday

→ Ladies and Loved Ones Dance- Emily Boland and Laura Sandera

- ◆ Dance is Saturday; presale tickets closed, but can still get ticket at the door (\$10/ticket at the door)
- ◆ Tomorrow is the last meeting - gathering to stuff envelopes, wristband, etc
- ◆ These will be delivered to the school Thursday morning and to the girls the same day (in case of snow day Friday).
- ◆ Girls will have to wear wristbands; list of presales at the door if lost
- ◆ Two gyms in use - one for dancing, one for crafts/activities, etc
- ◆ Snowball theme - snowy forest at entrance - need trees! Can sign up to bring in a tree, set it up, and then pick it up.
- ◆ People have been diligently making snowflakes - need people to come in and help hang them
- ◆ Need greeters and help at cupcake/cocoa table
- ◆ Girls were supposed to get necklaces (they were ordered from China and not received!) so they will be getting a bracelet instead to take home :)

- Reading Month- Leaj Smith and Kelli Bonnell
 - ◆ We are going to bring in a book illustrator at the end of the month - goes by Mr. Nick - Sleeping Bear Press illustrator. He is local and a great speaker for this age level. Will be split by grade level with Mrs. Ballmer's help in scheduling. This will be all day Wednesday, March 29th.
 - ◆ Will be doing a bingo sheet (working with Mrs. Pyper) and all kiddos will get popcorn at the end of month for fun. Then we will have levels of prizes varying from bookmarks, FROYO, book drawing, etc. - still working those details out
 - ◆ Want to do something for every kid... shirts? Other ideas?
 - Library bag, flashlight, drawing pad, etc.
- Blood Drive - Lindsey Grysen
 - ◆ Lindsey was not present; need to confirm next date
- Fourth Grade Year End Celebration - Amanda Theisena and Jen LaPorte
 - ◆ Caricature (won at Art Prize!) will come in for ½ day; same price as last year - need date, will work with Mrs. Ballmer/school
 - ◆ Will be doing shirts again (not all schools are doing them this year); will have "Class of 2031" on them.
 - ◆ June 1st - end of day - will be the send off

Website Updates:

If anyone/committees have updates for website please send to Kelli Bonnell

Raffle Drawing!

\$10 gift cards to Bricks - Niki Frontjes and Jen LaPorte are the winners :)

To Do/Other:

Continue working on the 2022-2023 events - need leads or help for a couple of events still!

- Teacher Appreciation - there is a group, but could use a lead
- Moms and Misterys could still use another hand
- Look into better ways to track Walk A Thon - electronic pages for students, money collected differently, etc? Amanda Theisen doesn't want shirts as a prize
- Another fundraiser next year? TBD