

KETTLE LAKE PTO

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Laura Gifford, President

September 13, 2021 @ 7 PM
Zoom Meeting

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:

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| Megan Ballmer | Laura Gifford |
| Ginger Schmidt | Amanda Rasche |
| Erin Hendges | Laura Durham |
| Molli Vanderjagt | Elena Noakes |
| Molly Carl | Nate Asper |
| Jenn Putnam | Jen LaPorte |
| Emily Boland | Kelli Bonnell |
| Stacey | Amanda Thiesen |
| Grace VanEss | Chandra Wing |
| Enneesa Ewing | Amy and Jason Hoss |
| Jessica Woods | Brennike Hinojosa |

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the May 2021 meeting were approved and are now on the KL website.

Updates from the Mrs. Ballmer:

Mrs. Ballmer gave an update on the volunteer policy; it will be looked at and possibly updated around October 1. The school is hoping to slowly allow volunteers, but they do not know exactly what that will look like yet.

She is unsure about how Halloween parties will look, whether parents will be allowed in the classrooms, but staff is discussing ways to make them fun for the students.

She asked if we can advertise the need for help in the Learning Garden; Molly Carl is the teacher in charge, but they need a lot of help with weeds, planting in the spring, and general clean up.

There will not be a fourth grade promotion like there was for fifth graders. This was a district wide decision to eliminate the multiple graduations that would be needed with the schools split up (graduation at 4th, 6th, 8th). There will still be some type of celebration, the fourth grade team is coming up with ways that they can still celebrate the student's time at KL without it being a huge ceremony.

Budget - Erin Hedges:

Went over last year's budget, not much money coming in, but teachers were still able to receive their yearly stipend.

This year, the Walk-A-Thon will be the main fundraiser, the hope is to get \$27,000 to cover the expenses for the year, which comes out to \$60-\$70 raised per student.

Other, smaller fundraisers are still planned (Coupon Books, Direct Your Dollars, Script, Family Fun Night) which will bring in some money - these need to be advertised and promoted.

This year's budget was approved by the PTO Board.

Walk-A-Thon - Jenn Putnam:

The Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2021. It is the 17th annual. Parents/Grandparents/Siblings are allowed to walk with their child(ren).

Packets went home with students detailing the prize levels and how to collect money.

Jenn will be promoting this on the PTO FB page.

Cougar Kids Care Club - Erin Hedges:

CKCC is for 3rd and 4th grade students in Kettle Lake. They meet the first Thursday of each month from 3:40-4:40. They do a snack, craft, and discuss ways to support local charities.

A blood drive is scheduled for Friday, October 8.

For more information, contact Cindy Keson - CindyKeson@gmail.com.

Terra Cycle - Jamie Ryder:

Terra Cycle will be up and running this year. Bins will be located just inside the front door, under the check in tables so that parents can drop off items without fully entering the school.

Items being collected this year include squeeze pouches, dental waste, bread bags (Bimbo brands), Swiffer, and air care. Cough drop packages may be added as well.

Crayola has halted their program for now, so this is on hold.

Jamie will update the FB page to encourage families to recycle and help earn money for the PTO.

The YMCA is taking over the Trex Program (plastic bags), so we should hear more from them soon.

PTO Website - Laura Durham:

The website is being updated as information is available. Information is being put both on the website and on the KL PTO FB page to give parents a chance to find the information in multiple locations.

Committees - Laura Gifford:

A lot of committee chairs are still needed. Also, some board positions will be open next year, so anyone with interest could shadow a current board member to be ready for next year.

Committees that need a chair/co-chair are: coupon books, Moms and Mr's, STEAM (this may be district wide and not need a chair), Reading Month, Family Fun Night (to be the replacement for Carnival), Box Tops, Direct Your Dollars, Script, Spirit Wear, and Talent Show.

Jen LaPorte is chairing the Teacher Appreciation committee and expressed a desire to have events for teachers happen throughout the year, rather than just a week in May. Seasonally or near conferences was suggested.

Room Parents were discussed - the PTO will organize room parents to support the teachers with parties this year, chaired by Laura Gifford, and info will be coming soon.

PTO Student Directory :

Mrs. Carl and Jenn Putnam offered to chair this.

To Do:

Gather information on open committees. Some parents are willing to help, but want to know what type of commitment each committee is.

Fill open committees.

Advertise ways parents can support the PTO in the passive fundraisers (Amazon Smile, Direct Your Dollars, etc.).

A version of the "Wednesday Word" will start coming out weekly; continued communication with Crystal Bellgraph to include and promote relevant PTO information.