



General Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 5, 2016

7pm

Location: School Library

Meeting called to order: by Sarah Putman at 7:03pm

In attendance: John Wallace, Nicole Booker, Alissa Poduska, Julie Wenzel, Heidi Hammer, Dana Pierce, Jayme Harper, Susan Pettit, Chelsea Hill, Mary Jackson, Stacy Schauerhamer, Pam Rice, Sarah Putman, Heather Castañeda

It was moved and seconded to accept the November 2016 minutes as written. Motion carried.

Officer's Reports

President's Report-Heather Castañeda and Sarah Putman

- Sarah introduced Dana Pierce, school psychologist, to make a special presentation on HABIC (Human Animal Bond in Colorado) and request funding to introduce the program to Shepardson.
 - HABIC is an animal assisted therapy program run through Colorado State University, in this case utilizing dogs.
 - Program can be either individual or small group therapy. 1:1 provides the best result, but see positive results in small groups up to 5:1. Sessions are 30min, one time per week.
 - Animal therapy addresses the child's needs: improves focus, following directions, memory, eye contact and communication, empathy, patience, self-esteem. By helping a child with challenges, it helps the class as a whole and the child's family.
 - Questions were asked about safety issues and Dana explained if a child begins to become out of control, the dog is removed and the child is calmed.
 - Another question was about how the children are chosen. Dana explained that they are nominated by teachers.
 - The request was made for PTO to donate \$400, which would fund two students for two sessions (total of 4 students). Dana is also looking for grants to begin a yearly fund to continue and possibly grow the program. A vote was taken and it was approved to allocate \$400 to begin the HABIC program.

Principal's Report-Mrs. Poduska

- PBL updates
 - Kindergarten and 1st grade have already gone to panel.
 - Parents had questions about how they could see the students' presentations
 - Some students have confidentiality requests which would preclude a live stream
 - 2nd and 3rd grade will be presenting in the next two weeks.

- Next parent night is this Thursday, December 8.
 - Melissa George will be presenting “Helping Children Effectively Manage Their Emotions and Behavior.”
 - Will do a trial of live streaming
 - Requests were made to consider a reschedule of this presentation due to the important nature and the unfortunately busy time of the year.
- No-Shave November has grown into Don’t Shave December
 - Challenge ends this Friday, December 9
 - Students have been told if they meet the fundraising goal that Mr. Thornes will shave half his beard.

Treasurer’s Report-Chelsea Hill

- Taxes have been submitted early
- Excel YTD was presented as well as the new software, Finance Manager
 - Talked through budget, expectations, reconciliations

Committee Reports

Family Nights-Vanessa Wilhelm

- Next Family Night is Thursday, December 22 at Garlic Knot

King Soopers Grocery Cards-Cara Fleckenstein

- Did not receive a check this month so all monies will roll over to next month
- Brainstormed ideas on distribution, awareness. Nicole Booker to talk to Cara about many new ideas.

Trivia Night-

- Tickets and registration coming soon; will be done online
- The Rio increased the cost and added the gratuity after ticket price was set.

Winter Social/Caroling Night-Mr. U

- Sarah explained that PTO had \$300 in the budget for the Winter Social, which was cancelled.
- A vote was taken to redirect the money to Mr. U to use for the first Caroling Night. The item passed and the \$300 will be allotted to Mr. U.

Sarah and Heather thanked everyone for coming, meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Minutes compiled by Pam Rice