

Elm School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: January 14, 2016

Attendees: Trista Negele, Jacqui Parrillo, Jen Donnan, Dawn Wood, Alissa Messana, Erin Doppke, Meeta Patel, Jeana Considine

Location: Elm School

1. **Call to Order**-2 pm
2. **Minutes**-No approval of December minutes because not enough members for a quorum. Will approve past minutes at next PTO meeting in February.
3. **President/President Elect Report-Trista Negele:**

Summary of PTO President's Meeting:

-Erica's Lighthouse Speaker at CHMS On January 13, 2016-Help parents recognize signs of depression as a teenager. Excellent to encourage depression awareness in fellow peers. Erica's Lighthouse offers a text hotline for teens that are depressed.

-Concern that PTO parental involvement has gone down at Elm School. CHMS has great participation by offering lectures on varied topics.

-Trista Negele suggested bringing in a speaker to Elm School PTO meeting to increase parental involvement at PTO meetings. Ideas discussed include the following:

Consider changing PTO meeting time and that afternoon time increased PTO attendance compared to morning time.

Consider alternating morning and afternoon times in 2016-2017.

Consider teacher presentations at meetings-once a month-nurse, psychologist, social worker, Prairie Garden, Mrs. Beard.

Connect speakers to major budget items.

Hold a raffle.

-Trista Negele also offered up a new SELAS activity

-Chalk The Block-done at HMS. Kids used chalk and colored sidewalk outside of school with positive message/image!!

-No One Eats Alone Day-Friday February 12th-antibullying campaign

-Ms. Considine discussed what is done at Elm. Kids are assigned seats at lunch and it is reassuring to kids to know that they are sitting next to someone at every lunch period. At Elm, once a year they have Mix it Up Lunch with random questions to break the ice and random seat assignment with mixed grades

4. **Treasurer's Report-Jen Donnan:**

Nothing new to report

5. Yearbook-Jen Donnan:

- 4th grade was low on Tree Ring photos.
- Encourage parents to post or give to Jen Donnan or go to Yearbook Tab on PTO website

6. VP Ways and Means-Dawn Wood and Erin Doppke:

- No Plant Sale this year. Last year PTO netted \$3000 from Plant Sale. Ask Vern Goers if they will donate 5% of sales for Elm School.
- Boosterthon over \$20000 (Plan on using \$5000 for new Basketball Hoops-awaiting quotes and not use on Gaga Pit due to safety concerns)
- Garage Sale \$4500
- Flying High Event-\$500 (try to book two for next year)
- Restaurant-January 21st The Patio-Must Bring Flyer for 15% to Elm
- Stix and Stones-20% to Elm

7. SELAS-Alissa Messana:

- All School Assembly Monday February 22nd
- Goal to help kids resolve conflict in lunchroom and playground
- Each month activities will be done on playground or indoor recess
- Magnets on lockers are a nice visual and kids are learning the right words to use to solve conflict

8. Principal Report-Jeana Considine:

- Family Math Night in December-100 people in attendance-purpose was to discuss the 8 Mathematical Practices and how it is integrated in each grade with parents and kids.
- Community Service-there is a service and education component.
5th grade Veterans Day and Pillowcases
4th grade Food Pantry Collection
- January 30th Feed My Starving Children
- Awaiting quotes for Walking Path or Shade Structure
- Volunteer needing background check and system set up by D181 for varying levels

9. Librarian Report-Mrs. Berry:

- Top Secret is title of book for One School One Book
- Fine Arts Night will be culmination on February 24th
- Second Author Visit Romp (Blue Stem Author)

10. New Business:

- Citizens for HMS-Pro referendum meeting January 12, 2016 at Hinsdale Public Library at 7 pm

11. Adjourn