

## **Elm School PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Date and Time:** April 12, 2016 at 1:45 pm

**Location:** Elm School

**PTO Members Attending:** Trista Negele, Jen Donnan, Alissa Messana, Meeta Patel, Dawn Wood

- 1. Call to Order-Trista Negele**
- 2. Approval of Minutes-**Not enough members to approve March minutes
- 3. Charlie's Gift-Autism Walk-Presenter Stephanie Seppanen**
  - Autism Walk on April 24th
  - Organization has completed visits to all 9 schools.
  - They have clinical social workers compose formal presentation for all grades
  - They have incentives for kids to participate-i.e. gift cards, raffles, posters, top student fundraiser wins a Fit Bit
  - Competition between schools with prizes going to 2 schools with
  - School with highest percentage of students participating at the Autism Walk will win Big Blue Shoe Trophy and school with most fundraising will win free Pizza Party at lunchtime
  - Charlie's Gift book will be donated to Elm School library
- 4. President's Report-Trista Negele**
  - Budget Meeting is April 29, 2016 at 2 pm at Elm School Faculty Lounge and final budget will be posted for 20 days for public review

### **PTO Presidents Meeting:**

- Digital Technology Initiative Presentation
- Elm School has 1:1 for 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Prospect has 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade 1:1 devices and eventually will hit 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Lane and HMS have least number of devices per students-0.5-0.6 devices per student
- CHMS has 0.7-0.9 devices per student
- Lane PTO President and Elm PTO President asked Dr. White when a determination would be made about district support for technology for schools
- Plan is for 2017-2018 calendar year for plan to be rolled out and provisions for technology for each school
- All schools will be equal in each grade-e.g. shared technology district-wide for k-2 then all schools will have to follow that plan

-**Nordic Energy** is coming to each school in 2016/2017 and for each home that signs up with Nordic Energy-\$25 will go to D181 Foundation and \$25 will go to HMS/CHMS PTO

**5. Treasurer Report-Jen Donnan**

- Community Service Kids Care Club has \$1000-Maddie runs and next program is at King Bruwart and last project is in Prairie Garden
- Teacher Supply Allowance still has funds
- Prairie Garden umbrellas funding needs to be clarified-maybe will come from landscaping expenses

**6. Principal Report-**

- Map testing completed this week
- PARCC will start this week and go for 3 weeks-90 minutes for ELA and 60 minutes for math
- ELA testing in the near future
- teachers worked on getting schedule less stressful and trying to avoid missing specials

- changes in administration in 2016-2017
- Strategic Plan has been adopted and approved by BOE
- met new Assistant Superintendent of Learning and she toured the school

**7. Faculty Report-Jill Berry Librarian**

- Beverly Cleary's 100<sup>th</sup> bday celebration
- Testing affects library but aides are there to help

**8. SELAS-Alissa Messana**

- February had all school assembly focusing on problem solving tools on playground and in conflict situations
- promoting qualities of be a community builder themes on playground at recess with fun games-Twister, Red Light/Green Light
- SELAS wants to provide t-shirts for Field Day and questions about budget
- costs for graphics and printing saved this year by using school resources

**9. VP Ways and Means-Dawn Wood**

- Boots and Bling
- \$4000 in sponsorship
- students made 3 pieces of art that will be auctioned off
- Wrapping Paper, Holiday Cards, Personalized Items for sale in November and will be shipped out
- Rummage Sale
- Flying High 2 dates-November during Parent Teacher Conferences and March during day off

- Last Labels for Education Run as it is being discontinued
- Vern Goers Plant Sale for whole month of May-Shop and Save
- Contact to see if they can come and do our planters

#### **10. Prairie Garden Presentation-Nancy Taylor**

- works with children in the Prairie Garden to build love of nature
- focus for several years has been on increasing monarch butterfly production by planting milkweed varieties
- Prairie Garden Club will communicate with students in Mexico and send them the paper butterflies at beginning of the year and then students from Mexico send an assortment of paper butterflies back to the school at the end of the year
- Prairie Garden Club students have option of doing crafts, having lunch, explore and play in the Prairie Garden
- will provide info for students to see bison in native habitat near Wilmington, IL
- Prairie Garden Club is formally for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade but 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders can stay on as leaders in the club
- tries really hard to start from seed vs plants to save on cost-she learns from master gardener
- goal is to give all participants tropical milkweed seeds to plant at home
- Trista suggests trying to coordinate Prairie Garden Club with first grade field trip to Peggy Notebaert Museum
- focus in spring is planting and in fall is exploring
- would love to have a pergola-cost was \$9900 for Heritage Pergola from Home Depot for 20' x 20'
- idea for building a loom for the garden for students to use for weaving yarn north and south and weave plants east and west
- another idea for garden is large wind chime (inexpensive) to make sounds
- possibly reach out to local Boy Scouts who need project for Eagle Scouts or to HCHS high school wood working class for Prairie Garden
- HCHS Eagle Scout will be building compost bin for school
- Elm Eco Club will have project of collecting food scraps next year
- Kohls Associates in Action has community service volunteers that offer 5 hours of volunteer time and \$500 cash

#### **11. Destination Imagination-Meeta Patel**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team won first place in Regional Tournament
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team participating in State Affiliate Tournament on April 16, 2016
- proposal will be made at Budget Meeting to have PTO Sponsorship of \$300/team for up to 10 teams in 2016-2017

**3:05 pm Meeting Adjourned**