

AEPTO General Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2016

In Attendance (31):

Executive Officers: President Jeff Turk, Treasurer Laura Ash

Committee Members: Lynzee Brenner (Art Reach), Laura Karr (Carnival), Marleen Cromer (Catalog Fundraising and Promotion), Mandy Sanders (Labels Coordinator), Jessica Ackerman (Book Fair)

Luce Road ECLC Representation: Cassie Thelen, Allison Lebron, Heidi Barnaby, Michelle Ringle

Hillcrest Elementary Representation: John Helinski, Kathleen Cranna

Pine Avenue Elementary Representation: LaDawn Showers, Kim June, Jon Case, Heidi Kolb

Parents Representation: Lisa Carmen, Rachel Good, Holly Prince, Kristen Benitez, Faith and Jason Bendele, Kaleena Liedke, Katie Gillock, Amanda Higbie, Ashley Smith, Alissa Eisenlohr, Nancy Michael, Bethany MacGregor, Jeannette Sternhagen

I Call To Order:

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

B. The minutes of August 2016 were reviewed and approved.

II Reports of Officers

A. President (Jeff Turk)

First introductions were made around the room, and the PTO Board was announced as: Jeff Turk (President), Laura Ash (Treasurer), Secretary (TBA), Mandy Sanders (Labels Coordinator), Lynzee Brenner (Art Reach), Laura Karr (Carnival), Jessica Ackerman (Book Fair), Marleen Cromer (Catalog Fundraising and Promotion)

The mission of the PTO was described, quoting parts of the AEPTO constitution. Board composition, membership, and a quick review of Robert's rules (used for meeting proceedings) was discussed.

Meeting Dates for 2016-2017 - all are 3rd Monday of the month. Sep 19 (Luce), Oct 17 (Hillcrest), Nov 21 (Pine), Jan 16 (Luce), Feb 20 (Hillcrest), Mar 20 (Pine), Apr 17 (Luce), May 15 (Hillcrest).

A document was passed out that detailed descriptions of volunteer opportunities within the PTO - these included all committees and PTO secretary. There will be break-out

sessions at the conclusion of the meeting so interested volunteers can discuss possibilities with the committee chairs.

B. Treasurer (Laura Ash). Business as usual - no report.

C. Catalog Fundraising (Marleen Cromer)

A brief review of Great Lakes Promotions was given, introducing the fundraiser as one that focuses on products made in Great Lakes States. Fundraiser will begin at all schools on October 20th and end on November 3rd. Product pickup will be at the end of November (date TBA).

D. Promotions (Marleen Cromer)

We have moved away from our original PTO Facebook page (that required followers to 'like' the page), to a GROUP page, where followers may join and receive more effective communications and notifications from the PTO.

Open house was a great success. Some GLP fundraising items were there as examples. Initial feedback was excitement about local/Great Lakes products.

E. Labels (Mandy Sanders)

The Labels for Education program no longer exists. Teachers should keep an eye open for information about the first labels/box tops contest.

F. Art Reach (Lynzee Brenner)

There will be two instructional meetings for Art Reach docents and those that may be interested in serving as docent; one is this Wednesday (6 p.m. at Hillcrest) and the second is the following Wednesday (same time/same place). Emails and text messages have been sent

Lynzee is working on classroom schedules. Some classes have multiple docents and some have none (mostly Pine), however it was also noted that some teachers opted out of the Art Reach program, this year.

G. Book Fair (Jessica Ackerman)

Book Fare dates are as follows: Hillcrest (November 14-18), Luce (February 27-March 3) and Pine (March 20-24).

Last year, PTO funded a program whereby Hillcrest and Pine students received free \$ (coupons) to use at book fair. During the August budget meeting, funds were approved to extend this to all three schools, however care will need to be used in determining how best to manage this with our youngest students at Luce. In addition, a mother notified the PTO president that during last years book fair, her child brought home a book (with these free funds) that she determined was inappropriate for her (“it was a TEEN Beat magazine). This parent returned the item to the school, and her child received nothing. She continued that it would have been nice to know about this program to she could have possibly helped her child chose an appropriate item.

Volunteers will be needed for the Book Fairs.

III New/Continuing Business

A. The option of having a “holiday shoppe”/“santa store” for our students fell flat, last year, as support was low. The project would not have been a fundraiser, would require substantial manpower, it would be complicated to manage free items/coupons for low-income families, and buy-in from families across the board for a variety of reasons may be variable. The concept was tabled, indefinitely.

B. Last year, a considerable amount of time and effort went into what eventually turned into a vote in the affirmative to agree to the terms as set forth by the APS board to consider the PTO as a District Support Organization (DSO). This was supposed to be an annual agreement that would be signed by the PTO Executive Board, however it appears as though this formalization has not moved forward.

It was brought up that we should learn more about how PTO events are insured under APS policy.

C. Last year’s ShoeBox Recycling program was highly successful, and approximately 12-15 boxes were collected, resulting in raising about \$250 for the PTO. This is not a major fundraiser, and is promoted as a service project. The president is waiting for new boxes to be shipped to him so he can place them into the schools.

D. The PTO has an opening for PTO secretary. The job description was detailed as written in the AEPTO constitution.

IV School Reports

A. Luce Rd ECLC (grade-level representative/principal). 1st grade is visiting the ballet at Alma College, tomorrow. Picture day is October 4. Please consider joining Luce’s Facebook page to keep up with what’s happening at Luce Rd. ECLC. Luce is being represented in the Alma HS Homecoming parade with float.

- B. Hillcrest Elementary (grade-level representative/principal). Also attending ballet, tomorrow. Picture day Oct. 4. Spirit (homecoming) week is next week. Hillcrest also has a Facebook page. 2nd grade is traveling to Chippewa Nature Center.
- C. Pine Ave. Elementary (grade-level representative/principal). Also going to ballet, tomorrow. Kari Brock is the new art teacher. Pine's Facebook group is being launched this week. Girls On The Run begins today. 5th graders are going to Anderson and Girls orchard. 4th graders going to Double Eagle dairy farm. NWEA testing will be going on for three weeks.

V Open Discussion

None

VI Announcements

Cub scouts accepting new members (1st grade through 5th grade) - meet at Alma United Methodist Church.

Foster Closet program explained - provides personal items to foster children. 5-7 p.m. at Church of God in St. Louis - clothing donations from baby to children XX - accept donations of all types. See Laura Karr or Heidi Barnaby for more information.

IV Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled at Hillcrest Elementary for Monday, October 17th at 6:30pm. Free childcare will be provided.

Break-out sessions