

Avoca PTC General Membership Minutes

A meeting of the General Membership of the Avoca 37 Parent Teacher Council was held on Wednesday, January, 14, 2015 at 7:00PM at Marie Murphy School, Wilmette, IL.

WELCOME: President Kathy Stein opened the meeting at 7:09 PM and the secretary recorded the minutes. A quorum of PTC members was present. (Eight voting members are required)

Attendees: 17 members and 3 guests were present.

Administration: Kevin Jauch (Superintendent), Matthew Palcer (Principal –Marie Murphy) Sheryl Swibel (Board of Education)

Introductions: Members and administration introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was modified and approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 12, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President's Report: (Kathy Stein)

- Thanked Lourdes Cornelius, Colleen Rosenthal, and Mia Hasegawa for co-chairing the Intercultural Festival, Denise Kingwill and Patrice Bazianos for 7th Grade Snowflake, Jenny Wilson and Youla Shalung for coordinating Winter parties and Anita Cepuritis for creating the informational first page of the directory.
- Program Enrichment coordinator Kathy Livingston arranged Comedy Sportz performance for 7th & 8th graders. Kathy is contacting a local expert to present a student program on Great Lakes conservation.
- Open Executive committee positions in 2015-16 will include Director of Membership, Director of Communications, each for 2 year terms and Director of Community Relations for one year. PTC members actively soliciting volunteers.
- Executive Committee seeks input on expanding into social media.

Treasurer's Report Brian Egan presented the treasurers report and filed a copy for audit. Major expenses included printing the directory.

PTC Account as of December 31, 2014

Beginning Cash	\$76,328.18
Receipts	\$ 1,290.16
Disbursements	\$ (1,872.26)
Change in Managed Programs	\$ 101.00
Ending Cash	\$75,847.08
Managed Programs	\$ 4,229.76
Checking Account Balance:	\$30,612.02
Money Market Account Reserves:	\$45,235.06
Total Asset Balance:	\$75,847.08

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Boys Night & Girls Night (Jenny Wilson for Kathy Montecristo)

- Luau themed events will be held on January 30th for boys and February 6th for girls (K-5th).
- Chairs have budgeted for 100 students for each event. Event will offer food from local eateries Irving's Hot Dogs, Stormy's and Homer's Ice Cream. Homer's has agreed to a 50% discount.
- Event activities include a make it yourself sundae bar, a craft table managed by Marie Murphy student volunteers, music by the same deejay as for 8th grade graduation, and a photo booth. The photo booth vendor contract includes a compilation DVD for the PTC to use on our website.
- Walk-ins will not be accepted as is clearly communicated in marketing materials.
- Committee needs more day of event volunteers, in addition to the four planning committee members.

OLD BUSINESS

Intercultural Night (Colleen Rosenthal)

- a. Event was very well received with 90 families attending, 70 families provided food and 16 acts represented countries.
- b. Thanks to co-chairs Mia Hasegawa & Lourdes Cornelius, student Henry Blasingame, and parent, Christopher Blasingame for running sound & making a video, and Marie Murphy custodians for set-up and event help.
- c. Suggested changes for next year include better response method, more clear communication, add a PTC membership table and better use of the space as several late offers for additional countries couldn't be accommodated.
- d. Pictures of the event are on the electronic bulletin board.

NEW BUSINESS

New Fundraising Opportunity (Colleen Rosenthal)

- a. On February 17th, California Pizza Kitchen is offering 20% back to the PTC. Colleen is checking with Regal Theaters seeking discount movie tickets to compliment fundraiser.
- b. Additional fundraising possibilities include a moms/dads night out at Stormy's and a fundraiser with a current teacher's band.

School Gift (Matt Palcer)

- a. Expressed appreciation any gift the PTC provides.
- b. Faculty and staff brainstormed items that would benefit the most students. Possible items Marie Murphy teams would like to secure and approximate costs include: (a) new sound system for gymnasium with better quality speakers and plug & play option, (b) three laptop charging stations for at least 20 spots - \$650 each, (c) drop down screen in gymnasium - \$1000, (d) water fountain stations - \$200 each, (e) ceiling mounted 80" flat screen monitor - \$2500,
- c. Members discussed taking before & after pictures to promote campaign and spur fundraising.

5th Grade Transition (Rachel Goodman)

- a. Propose that we form a committee to aid the transition from 5th to 6th grade.
- b. The goal is to address students' executive functioning skills, time management, adolescent social issues, and parents' transition to more hands off approaches.
- c. Ideally the committee would develop a team of 4th, 5th & 6th grade parents and 5th & 6th grade teachers. Discussed an inclusive committee to address transition to adolescence, middle school & high school.

(1 member left)

Amy Shinohara motioned to form a committee of parents, teachers & students to address transition needs of students. Motion seconded. Discussion continued. Upon a voice vote with all members present voting aye, the motion was carried.

FAN (Amy Shinohara)

Upcoming notable events: 1/25 film screening: "The Internet's Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz" with discussion NT-W, 2/9 7PM film screening "The Mask You Live In" NT-W, 2/12 7PM Author of "Born for Love"

Proposed 2015-16 School Calendar (Kevin Jauch)

- a. Presented a draft of the District 37 calendar.
- b. Changes include starting classes on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 with teachers to begin on Monday August 24, 2015.
- c. Proposal aligns winter break, spring break, Yom Kippur and Presidents' Day with New Trier HS who is changing their calendar for the next three school years in order to accommodate construction.
- d. Days that differ are school start dates, Rosh Hashanah, Columbus Day, pre-Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the school end date.

District Communication (Kevin Jauch)

- a. Current parent communication tools include weekly E-blast, principals' newsletters, Vision quarterly newsletter, paper copies of Board Briefs, Village of Wilmette e-news, district wide email for

emergencies & time sensitive news, automated telephone call, district website, paper copies of school handbook at each office, remind 101, MM parent coffees and RSS feeds.

- b. Community at large receives Vision, board briefs, & village e-news.
- c. Plan to perform annual tests of emergency situations, possibility of adding texts to the current system of blackboard connect.
- d. Discussion other social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) Informal parent group exists on Facebook and some staff utilize blogs. Membership expressed a low level of interest in social media.
- e. General consensus is the amount of information dissemination is appropriate.

Adjournment Amy Shinohara moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Next PTC General Membership meeting is February 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM at Avoca West School.

X

Denise Kamberis Kingwill
Avoca 37 PTC Secretary

Approved on _02/11/2015__ as
Distributed: __DMK_____
Corrected: _____