

Prairie Lane PTO Meeting January 21, 2016

In Attendance: Dina Beal, Beth Kaufmann, Mandy Taylor, Vicki Sharkey, Jessica Winnie, Jane Wilker, Camille Schroeder, Mandy Taylor, Colleen Robson, Sara Hanel, Crystal Mahon, Megan Calhoun, Mel Modica, Jen Rothove and Beth Olson.

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm by Mel Modica, Prairie Lane PTO President

Welcome and Introductions

Officer Reports:

President's Report – Mel Modica:

- Nothing to report

Vice President's Report – Jen Rothove:

- Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report – Megan Calhoun:

- Copy of the financial statement – The money was disbursed for the Walk a Thon.
- Computers are here – computers were disbursed to the lower grades.
- Ms. Wilker approved, Sharkey seconded.

Secretary's Report – Beth Olson:

- Minutes presented for November 19, 2015 meeting.
- Approved by Jane Wilker – Seconded: Colleen Robson

Principal's Report: - Camille Schroeder

- Camille introduced Polly Wang. Polly teaches first grade English in China. She is visiting with other teachers from China. Polly is here for two-weeks to visit.

Committee Reports:

Friendship Parties – Crystal Mahon

- Need names of parent volunteers who will be attending the Friendship parties.
- If not signed up in advance, they cannot attend.
- Background checks are required.

Spirit Wear – Jen Rothove

- We have made \$163.87
- You can go online anytime to order – the sale is open anytime, not limited times as it has been in the past.
- To order go to mylocker.net

Newsletter – Beth Olson

- February content email request will be coming out soon
- As always, I'm willing to work with you to write something if you need help or don't have time
- Just get information to me by the deadlines
- Any feedback/suggestions for improving the newsletter, let me know

Sock Hop – Megan Calhoun for Jenny Hermes and Kari Ray

- The Sock Hop will be March 4 - \$5 per kid, includes pizza, water and a cookie.
- A flyer is coming home soon
- Jenny and Kari are excited to be organizing this fun event again!

Family Fun Nights – Megan Calhoun

Movie Night

- Will be Feb 12, 2016 – The kids voted on the movie choice. Four choices were given and the Lego movie won by a lot.
- We are going to have a \$1 admission – the Christmas movie was more expensive, so price is reduced for this movie.
- No canned goods will be collected this time – will be right after Souper Bowl.
- Drop off will be in the cafeteria this time to allow more space to spread out, the hallway was very congested as we had a lot of parents who didn't pre-register and needed to fill out the pre-registration form.
- Chaperones will be needed for the event a form will go out soon asking for help.

Recap of December Movie Night

- We had about 140 kids who came
- Overall it was a good night, had some chaotic moments – lots of trips to the bathroom.
- We will work to improve some things this time and with the larger space for drop off it should work more smoothly.

Bingo night

- We had Bingo Night last Friday and Ms. Foley and Sharkey did a great job calling Bingo.
- We made around \$500.

- We had a lot of volunteers which was help – we have struggled to get volunteers in the past.
- Ms. Robson won the teacher volunteer gift card - congratulations.

Alpaca Art

- Will be the last Family Fun night of the year in April.
- We may change the date as it conflicts with the band and choir concert.
- We thought it would be a good idea to pair it up for Mother's Day. Kids can come in to paint gifts for mom.

We have no Family Fun nights planned in for May – with so many other events going on – there is very little time.

Action Territory – Jen Rothove

- Tomorrow night from 4-10.
- Mrs. Schroder will send out the Friday news.
- Make sure those in attendance say they are from Prairie Lane. The more people who go, the more money we raise.
- The earlier you go, the less busy it is.

Old Business:

Soccer Nets – Megan Calhoun

- There were concerns about the soccer goals and nets and whether they were safe.
- They can come out and put sandbags on them – cannot anchor them.
- We have sandbags and new nets on order, in the Spring they will be installed.
- We found out that the nets are supposed to be taken down each winter; doing so will extend their life.
- Will coordinate with either the Janitors or they gym teacher to make sure this happens with the new nets.

Holiday Shoppe – Megan Calhoun

- Our first year was a huge success.
- We made almost \$700.
- The kids loved it
- We appreciate all of the help for those parents and staff who helped out with the sale.
- We have already signed up to do it again, will tweak it.
- We were only open one night this year, it was successful. We got feedback from parents who preferred to come with their kids vs. sending money to school for wish lists.
- We will look at adding a night again next year.

Box Tops – Mel Modica

- Kimberly Gallagher has volunteered to take over Box Tops for Jacque Bridgeman next year for this position.

New Business

Teacher Luncheon – Mel Modica

- We have a sign up genius posted asking for donations of sides and desserts.
- Will be catering in Jimmy John's – will be asking parents to bring in sides, desserts, salads. Bringing in ham and turkey and condiments on the side.

Breakfast with the Bunny – Mel Modica

- This is a new event scheduled for March 19, 2016 from 8-10 am.
- Event will be at Applebee's; they will cook all of the food and we will serve
- We will need a lot of helpers to serve and bus; volunteers will earn one free meal for your family.
- Event will be presale only; they only buy what is needed based on the guarantee given one week ahead of time.
- There is a maximum number of tickets that can be sold.
- The Easter Bunny (Matt Modica) will be there for photo opportunities.
- Unfortunately, if we don't get the help with the event we will need to cancel.
- Volunteers need to be at least legal working age – if you know any high school students who need volunteer hours, it's a great opportunity.
- Volunteers need to commit to help for the whole event, as Applebee's does a training at the beginning of the event for all volunteers.
- Volunteers will be able to sit and eat with your family. Event is before the restaurant opens.
- Last seating is at 9:30 am as they open for lunch at 11 am.
- Something will come home soon about the event.

Playground project – Megan Calhoun

- We discussed the idea to add on to our playground.
- Spoke to Kevin from facilities about the parameters and we have a lot of options, equipment needs to be cleared by facilities.
- We talked about doing something small this year and then adding on, however after talking to Kevin, it might be better that we wait and do an installation all at one.
- KUSD will dig and put in concrete – we will hire for the installation. Then KUSD will put in wood chips.
- Kevin gave us the name of a place that does playgrounds and is good at giving discounts for schools.

- We recommend fundraising this year and next year so that we can buy something bigger.
 - Jane Wilker suggested that we make considerations for kids with disabilities.
- If anyone has any concerns with us delaying it – let us know.
- They only do installations in Spring and Summer.
- Placement is recommended to go East, towards the soccer fields. Wouldn't want to get too close to the baseball backdrop or the soccer field.
- We have room to expand East.
 - Beth Kaufmann said that Brass Community School just put some playground equipment in over the summer and that Principal Joel Kaufman could be a resource for us.

Souper Bowl – Megan Calhoun

- This even is done by Girl Scouts and they will be doing it again
- The troop is in 3rd Grade, they will be looking for a younger troop to take it over next year.
- There will be flyers going home once we know who is in the Super Bowl and they will divide up the products among the classes.
- The school will be divided into two teams with different products assigned to each class.
- Flyer will come home after this weekend.

School Supply Boxes – Beth Olson

- We will again be doing school supply boxes, however with a different vendor – EPI (Educational Products Inc.)
- We decided to let the contract with School Kidz (Staples) lapse in an effort to seek out a lower cost option.
- We requested bids from three different companies and the pricing was quite varied, however the company that we are going to go with had significant lower pricing as compared to the competition. (Pre-K box = \$21.98 to 5th Grade box = \$36.62) * Pricing is based on 2015 school supply list – not reflective of final 2016 pricing.
- The boxes can come in an eco-friendly box – using less packaging or they also have the “case style” box similar to what School Kidz offered.
- They offer boxes with name brand or store brand products – we can choose which items we want name brand and which we will accept their store brand. The more store brands we chose, the lower the price.
- In the price quotes, we asked for name brands for crayons, markers and glue – other items were quoted under their store brand.
- They have a 100% satisfaction guarantee and offer replacement throughout the entire school year if an item doesn't meet our quality expectations.
- They will ship to school for free
- If no objections, we will proceed to sign the contract and offer the supply boxes this year with EPI.

- EPI offers us the opportunity to have a longer sale – previously Staples required our orders to be in by April, we have until June to finalize our orders without penalty.
- Beth asked the teachers to let us know if there are concerns with the quality of the products from EPI throughout the year.

Volunteer Difficulties – Megan Calhoun

- Laura Benzaquin is our parent volunteer coordinator. This position looks for volunteers for activities that occur during the school day such as Picture Day, Fire Safety Month, vision screens, lice checks, etc. She has reported having a lot of difficulty finding people to volunteer for these events.
- In the past we've had no problems getting people to volunteer for these types of events and others.
- Megan asked if we have any ideas or suggestions to get people to help out with these types of events.
- We've experienced a lot of difficulty this year getting volunteers to help out with most PTO events; this last Bingo night we had to resort to offering a gift card raffle to get volunteers – it did work, however it is not feasible for PTO to pay the cost of gift cards just to entice people to volunteer for events.
- It was decided that PTO will send out another volunteer form to recruit additional volunteers for the events for the rest of the year.
- Camille said that she would put something in the Friday news about volunteering to help keep our events happening at Prairie Lane.

Board Positions – Mel Modica

- Jen Rothove (Vice President) and Megan Calhoun (Treasurer) positions are up at the end of this school year.
- We will be looking for a new VP and Treasurer – if anyone is interested let us know.
- A form will be coming home to notify parents to see who might be interested in vying for these positions.

Heart-Shaped Pizzas for Valentine's Day

- Ruffolo's Pizza has agreed to do the heart-shaped Pizzas again with Prairie Lane for Valentine's Day
- Look for a flyer to come home with all of the information.

Meeting Adjourned

- 7:51 pm