

Stratford Road PTA meeting, November 9, 2016

Meeting commenced at 9:40am

President Priscilla Seidenberg made apologies for having cancelled the October PTA meeting and suggested everyone review the minutes from the September PTA meeting.

Dr. Clark:

- Teachers had Superintendent's Conference Day yesterday-it was called an "unconference." Over 500 teachers participated in different workshops and conversations about self-selected topics. The rooms were each filled with teachers spanning grades K-12.
- School is in full swing. Routines are settled.
- Power of One assembly on Sept. 21st. Performers explored bullying skits with kids, each child "has the power of one to make a difference."
- In October, the Plainview Fire Dept. visited grades K-2. The children learned fire safety as well as stop, drop and roll.
- Symphony Space program for grade 4 began last week. Social Studies comes alive in the classroom. Each class has different guest artists: dance, theater, story telling. There are two field trips during the year for the students.
- There is public access WiFi in the building at the children's level.
- Literacy learning continues. Regina Newman is a trained facilitator. She is working with teachers of grades K-2 on foundations.
- School will be working with Eileen Annino, the Chairperson for Elementary Literacy, to study a variety of text levels and looking at how children are engaging and learning.
- School is working with Judy Dodge, a well known consultant and author. Teachers are exploring ways to present information in math to the students.
- Teachers are working with the English as a New Language teachers. The classroom teachers are receiving professional development a few times each year.
- Mr. Rob Lombardo, a Mattlin Middle School teacher, is coming to Stratford to support technology, esp. in grades 3 and 4. He'll be at Stratford on even days for an hour.
- Teachers may be "absent" for professional development. Some professional development will be after school hours, but some will require longer, solid time.
- Extra help is being offered in grades 2-4 on Wednesdays with each child's teacher. There is an electronic sign up. Must sign up in advance. Maximum of 10 kids.
- We are designated as a **Title 1 school**. We get funding based on percentages of students who receive free and reduced lunch. This is geared toward kids who are at risk. We have access to more staffing and a bit more support. We have opportunities to request additional items (more or less of something) that other schools in district don't have.

- There is a school/parent compact. This is a list of ways school and parents will work together for the successful education of children.
- Wednesday 11/23 will be 4th grade game day. Kids play against staff. K game day will be in December. 1st grade in January. 2nd grade in February. 3rd in April.
- December 14th-4th grade winter concert
- Winter recess 12/26-1/3.

Colleen Mack-Savino raised some questions about the old Kindergarten hallway. There is some constructed needed. It will be used for district offices which don't require high traffic. It was stated that, whatever the outcome, things will be in place to make everyone comfortable.

Priscilla Seidenberg-President:

- We need to form a nominating committee to bring people onto the PTA Executive Board to help the school and the PTA. Three executive members were chosen as were two general members with an alternate.
- Julie Shishko was nominated and approved to represent Stratford at Council meetings.
- Many thank yous to several PTA Executive Board members for all of their hard work and effort.

Kim Bell: treasurer

- Anyone with a check request should always contact Kim
- We are at \$29,553.68. All has been reconciled.
- Tax return has been filed.

Danielle Walowitz: Membership

- We have 312 members
- Many teachers, administrators, and staff are members. We have exceeded our goal of 308.
- Registration is open until March. People can register on-line.

Marisa Pammer: Roving VP

- All class reps have been chosen and contacted. Trying to collect class lists from all classes

Donna-Morr Davidson: Programs

- October 21st - K/1st grade night out went well. Chair people were thanked.
- November 4th - 2/3rd grade night out went well. Chair people were thanked.
- November 18th will be 4th grade night out.

Sara Bodeker: Community Service

- Collected \$930 to Whip Pediatric Cancer
- Community blood drive is 12/12. Class parents need to attend the meeting prior to the drive.

- The mitten project is coming up. Collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves for people who are homeless.
- Mr. Paskal spoke to a woman in Ohio. All kids there are living below poverty. His class has pen pals with some of those kids - "we are lucky, we help others." Having a gift card drive-people can anonymously donate gift cards to be sent to the kids.
- Box Top - check for approx. \$340. Please send box tops as soon as you get them.

Krystal Heron: Fundraising

- We earned \$2212.50 from the Kids Stuff Books
- We earned \$745 from spirit wear
- We earned \$1920 from Miss Chocolate
- We earned \$375 from Parent's night out.
- M.J. Beanz fundraiser will be on 11/16.
- Pie and Bread sale going on now.
- 12/6 & 12/7 - holiday boutique. Volunteers always welcome.
- Book fair 12/13, 12/14, 12/15 during parent/teacher conferences

Colleen Mack-Savino: Cultural Arts

- There will be two in school programs. Spooky spectacular mad science program and a Native American program.
- 12/7-Picture retake day.
- Blood drive - need excellent showing there. Colleen and Julie Shishko are chair people. Sara Bodeker is our building rep. Every one pint of blood saves 3 adults or up to 7 preemies.

Discussed District Wide Reports

Stacy Kouba: Nutrition

- There was a taste test of chicken nuggets at their last meeting. Results were inconclusive. There will be a taste test of a smoothie on the elementary level. Possibly to be offered one day a week instead of fruit.

Aliza Aaronson-Greenberg: Technology

- Chrome books were given to 5th and 8th graders.

Brianne Sulibhavi: Curriculum

- Elementary committee has reps from every unit
- Grades 3-8 reviewed state results. We have much more opt outs than other districts.
- Address any specific school curriculum interest to Brianne and she will, in turn, give to Dr. Clark

1/13-District Council Murder Mystery night out at the Woodbury Country Club. This is an event for the entire district.

Meeting adjourned 10:51am

