

General PTA Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023
9:30am, Google Meet

Becky Thorn called the meeting to order at 9:32am

Executive Board Attendees: Becky Thorn, Jon Guerrero, Eileen Siddiqi, Amy Gunderson

General Attendees: Rachel Witkowski, Danielle Weston, Jen Cortese, Jill Manesh, Kelly Moscickis, Michelle Cesario, Jenny Zea, Meagan Basler

Welcome

Fundraiser Updates:

- Boo Bags- \$360, will continue doing this fundraiser next year
- Butter Braid- 93 items sold, profit \$584.50, pickup went smoothly, continue this fundraiser next year, moved earlier this year than in past years and sold slightly more than last year with the earlier timing
- Sharko's Restaurant Night- \$145

Restaurant Night Fundraiser- Little Italian West Pizza- TONIGHT! Order your pizza for dinner!

Bingo Night (11/10 6:30-8pm)

- Free Popcorn donated by Hollywood Palms
- Cash only concessions for candy and waters
- Everyone is welcome to come even if you haven't signed up yet
- Neuqua volunteers coming to help run the event and will dress as Freddy

Mutual Ground Donation Drive (Begins 11/13- 12/1)

- Community organization helping families impacted by violence and substance abuse
- They host an event where families can shop for items for the holidays
- Donations to support this cause can be dropped off in the large box located in the front entrance of Graham
- Make sure donations are dropped in the correct box since Winter Wishes D204 program is happening at the same time and will have a box in Graham's entrance

Parent Teacher Conferences Donation Update (11/16, 11/20)

- All sign ups were filled quickly
- Drop off all donations by Tuesday, 11/14
- \$400 was budgeted for the dinner provided to teachers plus cash donations
- Include dessert on signup in the future – Kelly to provide mini cheesecakes for dessert with dinner

Watch D.O.G.S. (11/17)

- If dads haven't had a chance to volunteer and the slots are full, reach out to Jon or Jason directly to secure a volunteer spot

New Business-

- Class Party dates going forward
- Concern about the Harvest Party falling on Halloween – will ensure the Harvest Party falls on the Friday before Halloween to keep the dates separate

Fifth Grade Farewell

- Calling Main Event, Ultimate Ninjas and looking for other ideas outside the trolley
- Trying to find ideas within the budget and avoid asking for additional money
- Consider selling gum one Friday every month to 5th graders as fundraiser, could consider having PTA volunteers sell the gum (even Watch DOGS) during lunch, create sign up genius out for shifts during 11:10-11:30am 5th grade lunch period
- Will put out a donation bucket at Bingo Night to collect any donations
- \$800 is the current budget for this event
- Falcon Picnics will help fund field trips, can consider pulling some funds from 5th grade here

Updates from Principal Witkowski

- PTA is amazingly supportive, has been such a great to start to the year!
- Harvest Party was super fun for the kids
- Next year we should let teachers know the activities ahead of time (feedback from teachers)
- Conferences are coming up, so teachers appreciate the support of meals and snacks during these long days
- Report card rating went down from Exemplary to Commendable for Graham (ELA growth and chronic absenteeism) – mindful of this and working to address this moving forward, really need kids at school, starting ELA pilot district-wide for 2nd and 4th grade
- Veteran's Day assembly is coming up on Monday – Mrs. Stone or Mrs. Plaskota can confirm if Scouts are incorporated in this assembly and if parents can attend if children are performing. Mrs. Witkowski to confirm if parents are welcome.

Save The Dates:

- Next General PTA Meeting- 12/7 @ 9:30am on Google Meet
 - <https://meet.google.com/umu-dhoj-wam>
 - Guest Speaker: Laurie Donohue, President, IPSD 204 School Board
 - Will ask for parent questions to be submitted for Laurie to answer

Closing

Meeting adjourned at 10:12am