



Lakes Elementary PTO Meeting

Thursday, 01.18.2018 7pm

2017-2018 PTO Board Members:

Tonda Kaminski – President

Danielle Maki – Vice President - Community and Fundraising

Open Position Please Contact PTO if Interested– Vice President - Building and Student Life

Amber Kaleward - Treasurer

Karen Baquerizo - Secretary

President's Report:

Tonda was unable to attend today due to a sick child at home. Treasurer, Amber Kaleward ran the meeting in her absence.

Principal's Report:

Battle of the Books

There were 22 kids participating this year. Eight will go to the district battle on Friday 1/26. It has been a great experience for all involved.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Many school districts have MLK day off, but Rockford remains in session and focuses its teaching and activities for the day on the lessons we should learn from Martin Luther King Jr.'s example. The high school also participated with their power hour focusing on community service projects and learning about local issues.

Makerspace

In December, students had an open house in the Makerspace to prepare them for their first time going there as it was after the holiday break. Now, each class goes twice a month for 1.5 hours. There are 6 or 7 stations in the Makerspace. Goals include collaboration and problem solving without a lot of teacher help. The Creation Station is maintained with donations. There are coding Ozobots, Spheros and Ozmos, the latter two of which are controlled by iPads. Things are going well and the space has been well received. Kids are involved in setup and clean up. The Rockford Education Foundation gave \$25K for 5 Maker Spaces around the district.

Kindergarten Orientation

If you know of any families who will have Kindergartners next school year, orientation is coming up on March 14th! Please help us spread the word.

In April, there will be screening tests for Kindergarten/Developmental Kindergarten. It is only for those with later birthdates between May 1st- Aug 30th.

Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee was done differently this year, with grades 3-5 participating. The school will send 2 students to Regionals.

PBIS Assemblies

We had a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) Mini Assembly in the music room. The reason for this, is that after a long break from school, students need a reminder to be safe, respectful, and responsible.

We work to reward positive behaviors and have found that this technique works. It is applied district wide. The next PBIS assembly will happen after students return from Spring Break.

Upcoming School Assemblies

We will have a school assembly on Jan 30th @ 2pm for 3rd-5th graders. It is put on by Bright Stars and is called "Heroes of the Underground Railroad."

Additionally, the district has an author coming in and requested that all PTOs pay the fee of \$750. Jen and Sharon did not think it was right to add it to our budget since we already had other assemblies scheduled and paid for. The money was requested too late for full consideration, but, the author is still coming to Lakes. Lakes will be contributing \$200 from the building activity fund. There will be three assemblies on March 16th: One for K, another for 1st-3rd grades, and a last for 4th and 5th graders.

Thank Yous:

Nick Reichenbach, for School Board Appreciation Month, thank you for all he does for our community.

To Autumn and Danielle for Carnival, Jen M. for Warm Fuzzies, Jennifer for organizing the last assembly, and to the parents who helped with students so that teachers could prepare their rooms for holiday break.

Nick Reichenbach

Offers to make a cake for our carnival's Cake Walk. Offer accepted.

Rockford is such a wonderful community and is a Shangri La compared to other places. The job that the School Board does is relatively simple compared to other places. The decisions that have to be made in our district are overwhelmingly positive. School Board Appreciation Month is an opportunity to promote and remind our little ones that we live in a great place.

There is an article in the Rockford Squire, "The Whole Child Is Important." The School Board decided that the mental health of our students is a priority in Rockford. Every building now has a Mental Health Liaison to help students deal with family issues at home or something that may be affecting them at school. The Liaison is a good person to bridge the gap and transition between school and hospital/treatment/guidance. They know the best options and can steer families in the right direction for their needs.

Vice President's Report (Danielle):

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is coming along very well. Many donations are coming in from Lakes Families.

From Autumn, Coordinator of Carnival:

This is the first time Lakes has hired a Carnival Company. So far, we have 35 sold wristbands, with more forms in the office to process. The Carnival will have 16 games plus the Cake Walk. We may need more rooms, there was no response when teachers were emailed to request help with this. The Carnival Company should keep the classrooms in good shape as supervision is provided by their employees. This year there will be no tickets, no prize redemption. The price is more expensive to participate this year, but there are better prizes, a bounce house, and unlimited cotton candy! The Cake Walk will probably be held in the art room. It is kid friendly, all elementary school ages can play games and earn a prize. It is requested that Sharon make a Last Call for cotton candy over PA system as the close of Carnival approaches.

A parent asked if bags were going to be provided by the Carnival. Will ask.

Pizzeria Grande will be selling slices of pizza for \$1 and \$1 soda pop/water.

Facebook posts will go out next week to remind parents about Carnival.

Kids Food Basket

Students will bring in donations for Kids Food Basket February 5th-8th. On Friday, Feb. 9th, kids will be assembling supper packs. Information will go home soon about what each grade is supposed to bring in. Kids will decorate two bags each for KFB. The bags are given directly to KFB, they are not filled with food before they leave Lakes.

Box Tops

Meredith has the next Box Tops collection planned for Feb. 7th-21st, and will turn them in by March 1st. This fall, we made more than in years prior, so it seems to be going well.

School Spirit Vending

A Vending Machine Company has offered to sell school spirit stickers for 50 cents each. We do not pay for the machine, and a portion of profits would go back to the PTO.

It was decided that it is better to stick with our pencil machine, which does not earn a profit for anyone else. It was also a concern that stickers might get stuck in places that are difficult to remove around the school.

Open Vice President Position

Karla, our Vice President of Building and Student Life is not able to continue serving on the PTO Board. We are looking for a new VP to fill her place. If interested in learning more about this position, please email the PTO @ LakesPTO@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report:

Budget News

Nothing to report!

Additional Business

Christie, the Coordinator from our last Move 'n Groove recommended that we start training a new MNG Coordinator in the spring. She is happy to help train new coordinators.

Survey Idea: Should every child get a shirt even if they do not donate to MNG at all?

This year, we had a 75% participation rate, and kids who did not donate did not get a t-shirt.

Sharon and Christie both are of the opinion that every student should get a shirt. It is a school-wide event and kids wear their shirts all year.

Someone offered that the past two years, student donations have been going down. Corporate sponsorships have gone up, so this has offset the lower student donations.

Some in attendance were concerned that some students who regularly donated would stop donating if they just get a t-shirt for free.

The idea of an extra prize for donating, like a water bottle, could encourage student contributions.

The main purpose of the MNG is to earn funds for free field trips for students. We do not ask for money at the beginning of the year, and this is our main fundraiser for the whole year. Any decisions must be made with caution in this area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm