



Lakes Elementary PTO Meeting

Thursday, 02. 22. 201, 7pm

2017-2018 PTO Board Members:

Tonda Kaminski – President

Danielle Maki – Vice President - Community and Fundraising

OPEN POSITION please contact us – Vice President - Building and Student Life

Amber Kaleward - Treasurer

OPEN POSITION please contact us - Secretary

LakesPTO@gmail.com

President's Report:

Tonda opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Amber, our Treasurer, was not able to attend tonight. Two open positions were announced: Secretary, and Vice President of Building and Student Life. There is discussion about changing up the responsibilities of each VP position so that they are more evenly divided. One could chair social activities and the other could chair community activities. Danielle suggested that the Vice Presidents be co-VPs, two friends, preferably, who support each other. Tonda has spoken to two people who are interested. We will be collecting applications and voting on new board members at the next PTO meeting on March 22nd.

It will be necessary to update our PTO Bylaws because it is to be done every three years. Please come to the next meeting to vote and have your voice heard.

Principal's Report:

Thank you to all the families, students and PTO members involved in Kids Food Basket. We received a very generous amount of donations and it was a great experience for the kids to support local charities. Additional funds were donated by some very special Lakes grandparents, which allowed some extra items to be purchased to make sure we had enough of each product for the Supper Packs.

Valentine's Day Parties were successful. We are very grateful for these parent-driven celebrations. They make it very special. Thank you!

We recently had three field trips: 5th grade went to the Grand Rapids Symphony, 2nd grade spent a perfect day with no snow at Camp Roger, and our Kindergarten classes visited the Children's Museum.

Our first Kindergarten Winter Program took place at East Rockford Middle School and it was a success. Parent reaction has been very positive.

Report Cards go out on Monday 2/26. Tuesday 2/27 and Thursday 3/1 are conferences this week.

Children are being evaluated for Response to Intervention (RtI) and results will be shared at conferences. All children are evaluated three times a year.

DARE for 5th graders is starting up. Funding for this comes from the PTO, the Rockford Education Foundation and the School District.

Kids Have Rights is a program for children in K-4th grades which complies with state law to protect kids from abuse. Taught by highly trained and certified adults, it teaches about safe touches, and who safe adults are. All kids in the program can tell their parents who their safe adults are. This program only started last year and we plan to have it repeat every year.

Odyssey of the Mind has been huge. Lakes has students on five participating teams. Some of those teams also have students from East Rockford Middle School. In total, 33 kids from Lakes are participating this year. Regionals are Saturday 2/24 in Greenville. We wish all our Lakes teams much luck in the competition!

Vice President's Report (Danielle):

Carnival was a great success. This was the first time a carnival company was contracted for the event. So far, feedback has been positive. 255 wristbands were sold at presale, and 209 at the door. Carnival itself had a profit of \$1200, and Silent Auction had a profit of \$1900... for a grand total of \$3100 for the evening! As this is not a planned "for-profit" event, it went very well!

Some issues to consider for next year's carnival:

The Silent Auction ended at 7:15, but some parents were not aware of this and thought they had until 7:30 to bid so they missed out. It was very noisy at Carnival, and announcements could not be heard well over the PA. It was suggested that perhaps the use of an app such as Remind where interested parties send a text to opt in and receive notifications could be used next year to avoid any confusion.

Two cotton candy machines will be needed next time because of the high demand experienced. The different food stations were too close together, a different placement would probably be beneficial.

Next time, the wristband purchase line should be farther away from the front entrance so that the line does not go out the door into the cold!

Positives:

Bounce house was a hit.

Lines were short, there was no ticket collection needed nor prize redemption. The whole thing seemed to flow better.

This is Lakes' only Family Night activity. In the past, the PTO held Movie Nights and Spaghetti Dinner Nights, but not enough people attended to repeat the events.

Kids Food Basket was a great success, we cannot say thank you enough. It was a great example for kids about food charities. The school really goes all out to make sure students understand the impact that their goodwill can have. During the donation week, two books, Maddie's Fridge and The Yellow Dress were shared with students and seemed to have lasting effect.

Each child was able to make two Supper Packs. Kids Food Basket was very grateful and impressed with Lakes Elementary!

Vice President's Report (Karla via email presented by Tonda):

ISAC Report

1. RAMS X the 5 and 10 year strategic plans will be posted to the district website.
2. 1st College and Career Night had really high attendance and was a great success! Over 1000 in attendance. Some internships were even awarded. Looking to make a yearly event and expand and make even better next time. If there ideas or constructive criticism please let me know so I can pass it along or reach out to Dr. Kelley.
3. Bond construction continues see the blog on the district site for updates, photos, and details.
4. Kindergarten enrollment is going on now, roundup and screening in March and April. In district school of choice will be placed after the students attending their assigned Rockford school are given classrooms, then lastly the out of district school of choice students will be granted approval based on space.
5. Community fitness center is open now. Very inexpensive to join approx \$10/week. Several classes to choose from being offered through community ed. Check it out!

Treasurer's Report: (Tonda, in Amber's absence)

Budget News

Teacher Grants will open soon for spring, voted on in April.

Who can submit:

- Teachers who did not submit a grant proposal in the fall may apply for spring

Please submit grant proposals to LakesPTO@gmail.com

In other grant news, Lakes PTO has applied for a 5K grant on Lakes Elementary's behalf. Soon, a grant from Target is going to open up and we are primed to apply right away. This grant is also for 5K and is to be applied to transportation costs.

Other Business

Nick Reichenbach (Rockford School Board Representative):

April 27th is a special evening at Boulder Creek, an evening of Wine Tasting with great food.

Godspell is Rockford High School's spring musical performance. It starts March 9th and runs for two weekends. The performances are always high quality and worth the ticket price every time.

Kim (Librarian):

March 12th will be Paws for Reading. "Dogs" is the theme. Paws for Dogs will visit 1st through 4th graders.

March 16th, author Laurie Keller will visit Lakes. She is the author of Do Unto Otters and The Scrambled States of America.

Teachers will be participating in March Madness where each teacher picks a book for the competition. North Kent gets all the items collected.

Safety Levels

In lieu of the recent school shooting in Florida, parents are more concerned about school safety at our school and in our district. Soon, Lakes will send out information about the safety measures in place to keep our students safe so families can feel truly informed. Rockford is by far one of the best districts to attend as far as safety measures are concerned.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm