

PTA Meeting Minutes

1/10/23

Present: Miranda Berry, Staci-Lee Tyler, Audra Bucklin, Shannon Decker, Ella Martin, Melinda Russo, Nikki Turner, Candace Lord

Welcome/Cards to share with the group

Everyone introduced themselves. Nikki shared thank you cards from teachers and administration for the PTA's help with Stone Soup, yoga mats, and Parent Teacher Conference snacks.

Upcoming Events/Activities

→ Winter Carnival - February 5th

- ◆ Nikki shared updates and information about this upcoming event.
- ◆ The planning committee has been reaching out to local area businesses for sponsorship.
- ◆ Miranda will be planning some events outdoors on the field for the event. The group discussed ideas that have been done before and brainstormed new activities that might work well such as: Snowball toss, Sled races, Relay race, Snow painting, Hot chocolate, Snow flag football
- ◆ The group discussed set-up: Tables by the shed for access to power outlets for crock pots, etc. Games out on the field.
- ◆ Sign ups for event (volunteer roles & bake sale type items) will go out soon. PTA members can sign up to bring home-made or store bought items. The bake sale idea came about to make sure there is a variety of food. There are some packaged snacks left over from the October Trunk or Treat that can be used. Snacks and baked goods will be for sale since the event is a fundraiser.
- ◆ [This is the link to signup for the chili cookoff.](#) Local businesses or individuals can submit chili entries. People will be able to vote for favorites at the event.
- ◆ Unfortunately, student-designed tshirts will not work out logistically, but we can still use student designs for flyers. Students got information and worked on designs in school. The winning design will be chosen on Monday.

→ Next PTA Parent Forum - February 7th (rescheduled from original date of 2/14)

- ◆ 6:00-7:00pm
- ◆ Babysitting will be provided by 7th graders
- ◆ The topic will be Cybersecurity

- ◆ Audra shared information about the panel she is assembling to speak at the event including: Plainfield Police Dep't (Chief Swett), Felecia Foley, SRO in Claremont, and Lisa Gradijan
- ◆ Audra would also like to include a rep from a cell phone company to talk about the technology settings that parents are able to use to protect their kids. Staci is going to reach out to a contact she has to see if they are available to be on the panel.
- ◆ There will also be a time for parents attending to share ideas and strategies that they use with their children. Shannon suggested that it's helpful to have some parents of older kids to come to share strategies they currently use. Ella mentioned that social media is a big element of cybersecurity that parents will likely want to discuss. The group discussed presentations and films they have found helpful.
- ◆ Nikki asked Audra what would be helpful from the PTA in terms of advertising. Nikki suggested creating an eye-catching graphic. Audra can work with Felecia Foley to use CANVA to come up with a graphic/flyer for the PTA to share.

→ Youth Beatz Residency - February 13th-17th

- ◆ This residency has been rescheduled from the beginning of the school year

→ Possible PTA potluck - TBD

- ◆ The group discussed having a PTA potluck on the Youth Beatz evening performance date. When the Youth Beatz performance was originally scheduled for the fall, this potluck would have been a PTA "Welcome Back" event. Friday, 2/17, is the last FAST day and the last Friday before Feb vacation, so not an ideal night for a potluck. Audra will check in with the artist to see if a Thursday night (2/16) performance might be possible. We discussed perhaps having snacks before the concert instead of doing a potluck after the concert. (See notes under Book Fair below for more discussion of the potluck.)

→ Scholastic Book Fair - March 21st-23rd

- ◆ Shannon shared information about this event. The PTA gets 25% of the total sales to use for school and teacher needs.
- ◆ Shannon will start sending out more details and a call for volunteers in February. The PTA will send out info to families about how to create wishlists and purchase books on the website.

- ◆ Coin drive - Each class gets a jar, kids bring in coins for the jar in their classroom all week. The winning class gets a voucher to buy books from the book fair for their classroom library. These funds go towards ensuring that each child in the school is able to buy a book from the fair. Any leftover funds go to the school library to purchase books. Shannon needs help with this! It is a big process to count and roll coins for each class. People suggested bringing the coins to a bank to count/roll for free. Miranda has also offered to help.
- ◆ We discussed having an evening where parents and community members can come to purchase books - we didn't do this last year and it did not negatively impact sales - wondering if we would get volunteers for these additional hours.
- ◆ We also discussed the option of pushing the PTA potluck from February during the Youth Beatz residency to March since the Winter Carnival is already happening in February. We wondered if the potluck could possibly be in conjunction with an evening Book Fair event. Audra mentioned that the UA team would like to do a student showcase where work from UA portfolios can be shared. Audra will check with Vicki Bridge to see what the dates are for the student showcase. Could this event be combined with an evening book fair night and also include the potluck?

→ Parent Teacher Conferences 3/30 & 3/31

- ◆ Look out for signups for snacks. Audra shared that teachers loved the snack and drink selection from the fall conferences!

→ Spring Family Movie Night - April 21st, 6pm

- ◆ Ella has volunteered to coordinate this event and needs a co-chair. Miranda volunteered to help.
- ◆ Miranda has helped coordinate this event in the past and shared information that worked well before.
- ◆ Miranda said they paid for the rights to show movies to a big group. Nikki shared that rights are based on # of people attending. K-5 students would be invited to attend. Audra said this is about 135 students.
- ◆ Planning to have popcorn, water, and other snacks.
- ◆ Help with gym clean-up after the movie will be needed.

Drama Club Sets/Space

Audra reported that there are a couple of venue options for the Drama Club performance of "Newsies." Audra has reached out to KUA to see if their performance space could be used, but has not gotten confirmation at this point. Melinda said she knows a PES parent who is a faculty member in the KUA arts department and can reach out to them to follow up. If using KUA's space is not possible, the performance could be at PES. If this is the case, the Drama Club would need parent volunteers to help with creating the set. The PTA can reach out to Samantha (dramaclubadvisor@plainfieldschool.org) for more details and then put out a call for parent volunteers for this set design/build work.

Other Topics/School Feedback

- ◆ Miranda suggested a family game night for next school year.
- ◆ Audra shared that Abby Harrington is hoping to have a family math game night. The PTA can help get the word out when more details are available from Abby. Parents shared that these games are a hit at recess! Other recent recess options to give more variety for upper grades have included open gym, book discussions in library, and music sectionals to get more instrument practice.
- ◆ Ella said that 7th grade has a committee that is working on planning a silent auction to raise funds for the class trip. The committee will be reaching out to the school community to donate items. The silent auction will be on Sunday, March 19th, from 5:00-7:00pm

Our next PTA meeting will be on March 14, 2023.