

TONAWANDA PTO MINUTES–Room 112, September 10, 2015.

Called meeting to order at 9:09 am by Tara Coakley.

Attendee List: Linda Atkinson, Tara Coakley, Stacy Barry Coffey, Lisa Elliott, Laura Eisenmann, Brooke Fadeski, Ana Franco, Anne Hardy, Mindy Harmelink, Lindsey Kacsur, Ellen Laubusch, Katy Matola, Spencer Mayhew, Mary Mayne, Kristin Olson, Lizandra Rivera, Melissa Ruesch, Sara Schedler, Ann Schuelke, Kate Strebis, Katie Tendick, Jennifer Wendelborn.

Linda and Ann approved June minutes.

Tara introduced the leadership board.

An updated PTO calendar was distributed.

Library renovation update:

Our Tonawanda community raised \$50,000 for the library renovation. Plans were shown at the meeting and this new furniture is scheduled for delivery and installation over winter break. An additional \$26,000 is needed to complete this stage of the renovation. The district has agreed to split this amount with us and borrow us our portion (\$13,000) to be paid at a later date. (From proceeds of auction.)

Treasurer Report: Tara for Milly

Ledger was provided and distributed. We need approximately \$21,000 to cover our operating budget for this year. To date we have that amount in the bank. (Recently purchased items include: playground equipment and Time for kids subscription.)

Principal Report: Kristin

Board of Education recognized our PTO for our contribution to the library renovation. The district will pay half of the remaining balance (\$13,000) and borrow us the other half (\$13,000.)

Tiger Time has already begun on Thursdays. Working on new voice levels in the hallways on a 0–3 scale, recognizing a whisper in the hall may be okay since adults are speaking in the hallways throughout the day.

Map testing is beginning.

Recess will be before lunch for all grades, except K and 3. The students can sit anywhere in the lunch room. The change has helped the noise level in the lunchroom. Kids are more hungry and thirsty.

Mrs. Kashun is looking for a book room volunteer to help kids who comes to the room get books and reshel books.

Teacher Liaison: Kate

Teachers thank the PTO for the bags of balls for each grade. Mrs. Shinnors and the 2nd grade team is very thankful for the new second grade classroom items.

Teachers are in need of grant forms and they will be put in the treasurer's mailbox.

Teachers would like to order books from the book fair. Mindy is looking into what is best for this request—books themselves or the Scholastic dollars. We can arrange whatever works better for the teachers.

PTO asked if a teacher or two would be interested in heading a tech club for the students. May need 2 clubs for different grade levels.

Communication update:

No more Tiger Roar. All communication will be sent out in the Friday district update. Information can be sent to Tina Wan by noon on Thursdays. Michelle reviews the information and it is uploaded for Friday distribution.

Directories will be available in October.

Informal fundraising:

Dine outs are still being hashed out. Stay tuned for dates and locations.

Notecards will not be done this year. If interested, Artsonia, where Mr. Graves uploads the students artwork, does provide notecards and the school does get a percentage of proceeds.

Entertainment book sale started today.

Coffee/tea sale starts in October.

Candle sale in November.

Target cards ALWAYS a good idea. Need to push this fundraiser to all parents. Target will connect to debit cards, credit cards do not have to be used.

Schoola fundraiser sells consignment clothing. School would get a percentage of sales. Thinking about this new fundraiser.

Elmbrook Parent Network Update:

Tara went to the district meeting. (First Tues of month)

The EPN is a group of parents representing all Elmbrook schools, funded by the districts PTO's. The group meeting brings together staff, administration, board members and the community. They provide various interesting informative programming topics. I.e. "The Parent Backpack", to K to 5, how to support your child's education, end homework meltdowns and build parent-teacher connections. This is being shown October 1, 2015 from 7-9pm and October 2nd from 9:30-11:30. www.elmbrookschoools.org/community/parent-network.

Largest enrollment in 6 years.

800 students at Swanson school. They are at capacity. They discussed looking at re-districting to Dixon.

For kindergarten classes, 24-25 students is the max capacity. They are hiring a 3rd aide for our K classes.

47 new teachers this year. 900 new kids.

62 children enrolled in K4. Program can accept 120. This program does not have the taxpayer support so fees are needed for this program. Need to capture other 4K kids to enroll in K at Tonawanda.

Calendar changes to the school year have been stalled at this point. Voting in October, if it passes, school will start mid-August 2016, ending the first week of June 2017. The tourism lobby is strong. They do not want an August start time.

The health room will supply Tylenol and Ibuprofen. Children need to bring in a note to receive the medication.

Attendance will be less strict in regard to the 10 missed day letter. They would like all to be mindful of the children's absences however.

The grading policy for high school AP classes will be weighted differently.

State mandated-Novance software will be used in the middle school and high school to find the kids 'aptitudes' for different careers or professions.

Committee Reports:

Art of Youth: Ann-securing all volunteers for this program. There is a guidebook and craft guide to help volunteers.

Spirit Wear: Andrea-field day shirts on sale until 9/20.

Ice Cream Social: Lisa and Ann-need volunteers and is scheduled for 9/18.

Dine outs: Lindsey-dates and times TBD.

Room parents: Marla-all spots filled.

Bus driver appreciation: Merry-will be in October.

Auction: Spencer-February 6th, Mardi gras theme at Westmoor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37.