

**PTO meeting
10-11-2018 (6:30 p.m.)**

Minutes

Attendees

Vicky Shokatz, Connie Petersen, Kristen Riegert, Julie G., Nicole Fitzgerald, Sara Monty, Brittany Muriello, David Gross, Pal W., Thekla Bastl, Shana Meidam, Melissa Holland, Paul Vepraskas, Jeremy Monty

Minutes approval

David motion; Connie second

Principal Report (Melissa Holland for Dr. Siegenthaler)

Empty Bowls will be Jan. 31 (6-8) to tie in with Literacy Night. Dixon is rated #4 elementary school in the state. Elmbrook Education Foundation Ladies Night Out is Nov. 29 at 6:30. PTO should consider donating basket for raffle. Parent/Teacher conferences are Nov. 7, 13 and 15. Teachers will send out sign ups. Still getting many thank you's for the new swing set. If anyone is interested in donating a product or \$5-\$10 gift cards for monthly teacher wellness raffle, contact Dr. S.

Treasurer Update (Jeremy for Anusha)

\$36,000 in donations so far including buyouts. If we get to \$45,000 Dr. Siegenthaler will have her hair dyed. Dream is to take the fundraiser in-house and keep 90% of proceeds, but will need many more volunteers. Surveyed last year and majority of people wanted to outsource rather than take on additional responsibilities.

Committee to Review Bylaws

Will move forward with group who has volunteered to be on committee, review and update. Sara M. will send an email to those interested.

Committee Reports

Fall Fundraiser (Shana) – update above

Room Parents – assigned and moving along

Directory (Jeneeya) – 379 parents confirmed in directory out of 560. If you run a committee and need an e-blast to parents, fill out the request online on the My School Anywhere desktop. Give 24 hours notice.

Costume Dance (Kristen) – need help decorating and Key Club is being unresponsive so far. Committee needs additional help; volunteers. Consider National Honor Society. Have a DJ, decorations are in good shape, flyer will go out to parents through directory. Kristen to send to Jeneeya. Sara M. will send sign-up genius for room parents to help get volunteers. Add decorating help to sign-up genius. Maybe 5th grade boy scouts could help decorate?

Book Fair – eblast is going out after fundraiser

Spirit Wear (Megan) – expected to arrive tomorrow. Will hold pickup Monday after school and Wednesday morning. Anything not picked up will be sent home with the oldest student.

Dixon Garden and TYPTL (Vicky) – TYPTL day will be Oct. 24 for KG and 1st grade parents. Samples from the Dixon Innovative Garden will be handed out. Mrs. Durham's 2nd grade class harvested the pumpkins.

Social Committee (Sara M.) – The committee met and has several fun ideas for this year. Parents Night Out in Jan/Feb timeframe, simple and low-key. Paul is working on a Dad's Night Out, trying to do that event monthly. A pre-party for Ladies Night Out will happen this year, so Dixon moms can gather and go to the event together (Nov. 29) and another event in the spring.

Volunteer Opportunities

Empty Bowls – needs a co-chair

Library Helpers – needs volunteers

Engaging Volunteers

What are ways we can encourage more parents to come to PTO meetings, and sign up for some of the volunteer opportunities? Ideas:

- Have committee meetings at bar/restaurant, parents maybe aren't interested in coming to school another night of the week
- Have tried offering babysitting at meetings, didn't generate additional turnout.
- Is time difficult for some families, maybe try it after bedtime? Or may lose some people. Commit to having meetings last only one hour (7–8).
- For volunteer opps – new people aren't sure if they want to volunteer, they don't know what the event is, or the time commitment and needs required.
- How do people want to be communicated with? Research says text is method that gets most response. Emails are too long to read. Facebook is helpful and people prioritize that. People respond to and watch videos.
- People may not want to come to a PTO meeting because they don't want to be pressured into signing up for something.
- Using Google Sheets and Google Docs for everything so it is easy to pass the jobs on to someone else.
- Is there a way to communicate with parents to get feedback after events? Get them involved in getting some feedback and survey after events.
- Bring a friend to meeting, and word of mouth. One on one communication.

Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts

Ask for Dixon PTO to continue to support Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Part of charter. Have done a lot of work on Dixon Garden annually. Have done other jobs – garbage pickup, etc. A nice

group, anyone can join. Will continue sponsoring. Have 14 lions (KG), 12 tigers (1), 13 second graders, 3-4 3rd graders. A good size pack. Would like to do a school campout.

Paul motioned to adjourn; Sara M. seconded (7:42 p.m.)

Next meeting is November 8 at 6:30 p.m.