



February 9, 2015 Board Minutes

Board Members present: Kim Ambrose, Jen Meiring, Somya Bergman, Marcie Mefford, Nancy Kerr, Amanda Davis, Deb Rempert, Jan Wright, Matt Jeffrey, Nicholas Davis, Deb Nielsen

Board Members absent: Dawn Scheck

Other guests: Kathy Evangelista, Sue Minnec

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Secretary – reported by Kim Ambrose

- Approval of the December board minutes.
 - Jen Meiring motioned to approve the minutes. Deb Rempert seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.
- Calendar
 - Spring Resale and spring Dine Arounds have been added. Waiting to confirm Field Day date: is it May 15 or 22? Kim Ambrose will follow up.
 - The last day of school is now set for Thursday, May 28, pending additional weather days.
 - Skate Night in March: TBD.
 - February 26 is the PBIS date.

1st VP – Jen Meiring

- Yearbook
 - Cover contest is complete and the cover has been submitted. Need to publicly announce the winner. She will receive a free yearbook.
- Spirtwear:
 - We are proceeding with spirit wear Fridays. Student Council does NOT want to make posters/flyers for it. Sue Minnec's daughter will make some flyers. Dr. Wright will make announcements in the morning to remind kids to wear AGS spirit wear or green on Fridays.

Guest Speaker: Resale - Kathy Evangelista

- Resale is under way- press releases have gone out; Facebook event is posted; past sellers have been emailed a couple of times.
- As of 2/9/15: 35 registered sellers; over \$7000 (over a month out, those are pretty good numbers!)
- Committee is not doing much yet but will be gearing up at the end of the month.
- Signage should be set for the next few years, so no further expenditures should be on the horizon for signs.
- Heather Kwitschau is confirmed to take on role of chair (or co-chair) for next year.
- Have emailed PTO President at Storm and waiting to hear back if they are interested in potentially pairing; if not, ready to email JB Nelson PTO President.

- Again, we will be looking for Board members to work sale, specifically in \$\$ roles.
- Hoover-Wood is no longer doing the sale and we have all of their stuff. They don't want it back, so now we need to present them with a proposal for it (values listed below):
 - One scanner – new about \$150, used (per eBay) between \$50-\$100 – estimated value=\$60
 - Rolling Racks (5) – used (per eBay) between \$20-40 each. Estimated value = \$100
 - Rounders (6) – used (per eBay) between \$60-130 each. Estimated value = \$360 or less
 - One thing to keep in mind is that this does not include shipping nor does it include the value of the hassle for them to actually sell. Right now, retail value around \$500. Should we offer around \$350? Or does anyone have other suggestions?
 - Board will think about it and decide what to offer by our next meeting. The money will come out of the spring resale profits.

Ways & Means – Deb Rempert

- Dine Arounds
 - April 23: Pal Joey's. Adriana Plocinski is looking into making it a musical night again. Also looking into teacher volunteers. Last year teachers volunteered and were serving drinks. The teachers seemed to enjoy it, as did the families.
 - March: Adriana is looking into Bulldogs and the Batavia Creamery.
 - There will be no dine around in May.

Treasurer - Amanda Davis

- We reviewed budget report.
- Mrs. Ashby bought some books but does not have the money to cover the cost. She needs \$440.57. Can we find the money for her?
 - We can recommend that she tie this in to a special appropriation. March 26 is the next deadline and there is \$881 available.
 - Kathy Evangelista recommended that Mrs. Ashby (and ALL other AGS teachers and staff) apply for funding through the Batavia Mothers' Club Foundation. Applications are due on March 15 and the organization raises a lot of money to give out to local schools. Don't miss this opportunity.
 - Mrs. Ashby will be encouraged to try both routes.
- EC Budget: \$2700 is budgeted for field trips, end of year parties, etc. Approximately \$297 has been spent so far.
 - We budgeted to get a total of \$900 from 3 schools. Only 2 have committed so far (Louise White and Hoover Wood).
 - Storm says it's not in their budget but if they have leftover money in the spring, they will chip in.
 - Mr. Jeffrey will follow up with JB Nelson.
 - Grace McWayne can possibly help, but can't write a check to another PTO. It was recommended that they possibly write a check to AGS (not the PTO) or just write a check directly to the bus company for a field trip, which should be approximately \$297.
 - Mr. Jeffrey recommended that when Somya contacts the other PTOs in the spring to get this in their budget, that she includes principals on that email.
 - It was recommended that Deb Nielsen attend the BIC meeting on March 7 to talk about EC and what they've been doing; thank schools for the money; etc.
- Taxes are completed and back, but not mailed yet. They need to be reviewed first. Kim Ambrose and Amanda Davis will review.
- Field Day has \$750 in the budget for an inflatable. Mr. Park will be notified.

Classroom Support - Nancy Kerr

- Sue Minnec will be in charge of Classroom Support next year.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-8. Will meet with Head Room Parents in March to plan.
 - Chiropractors are already calling to volunteer.
 - Looking for gift suggestions. We have a \$500 budget.
 - Sue Lock is looking for dishes (for the teachers' lounge) and already has some silverware to donate.
 - Aim for heart-felt and personal gifts for teachers from classes.
- Will need parent volunteers:
 - Art Show: April 16
 - Field Day: May 15 or 22
 - PBIS Skating

Fun Fair - Nancy Kerr

- Going well. On schedule.
- Ticket packets went out.
- Decorations are ready.
- Raffles are coming in slowly. Bought a Kindle for raffle. Got an American Girl Doll.
- Classroom basket donations have also been slow, but we've got about \$500 to work with.
- Basket wrapping will be Friday night, Feb 13.
- Sign-up Genius: We still need a lot of cakes, and we need more than 100 volunteers. Lots of kids are volunteering, but we need adults.
- Inflatables currently don't have 8 supervisors – adults are needed for this role. Will close doors to this area if necessary.
- Angel Balderas will be at the event working (on the clock.)
- Movie Night & Fun Fair – are working together to place 1 big order for supplies from Sam's Club for food. In the past there were many more donations from individual stores, but those were not successfully secured this year. Nancy expects to spend \$300 more than last year on food due to this.
- More volunteers are needed – older siblings can volunteer and their parents can sign them up.
- Board members will be needed to count money for the event. They should contact Nata-Leigh Preas directly .
- Spirit Week will take place leading up to the Fun Fair event; they will theme days based on SWAMP (with P representing 'Please come to the Fun Fair'). Mrs. Ashby and student council are planning the theme activities for each day.
- Mrs. Woodruff approached Nancy to ask if Change for Change fundraiser by 5th grade could put out jars by the cash registers at the event to raise money during the night. As this would set a precedent for other fundraising groups (and our event is at risk for not raising as much money as originally hoped, due to lower basket and raffle item donations secured this year), this will not occur.
- Cub Scouts will be borrowing the PTO's Knights of the Round Table decorations for their Blue and Gold event décor. They will return it when the event is over.
- Fun Fair date for 2016: Date has been set for Friday 3/4/16; set up will begin Thursday afternoon.

Marcie Mefford – Communications

- Board approved motion to sign the agreement for another year with A-Z Directory. Agreement needs to be signed by 3/1/15. Marcie made motion to approve signing the licensing agreement and Somya Bergman seconded the motion.
- Marcie raised the question of whether the PTO Board should invest in a new App (versus updating our PTO Website) – the App is called Como.com and cost is \$400/year. Hoover Wood School currently uses this app. Board decided to table this topic and consider it for the future.

Dr. Jan Wright – President’s Report

- Dr. Wright shared the PTO Fundraiser survey results (survey to 2 audiences: teachers and then AGS Family community). The combined average rating results indicated that Revamping the AGS Library had the most votes, followed next by Instructional Resources, then Technology Tools. Mrs. Ashby’s vision is to alter the space to make it more inviting, possibly more of a lounge area for kids to go to relax. Dr. Wright will encourage her to visit other places to take pictures of what she thinks are successful spaces. Somya suggested putting the word out to our AGS community to see if there may be a parent who has a professional space planning/design background who might donate their services to help develop an appropriate vision to suit the need.
- Room Reservations Procedure update – Dr. Wright reported that, due to room scheduling process problems, there will be a new process for reserving space at the school. All groups and faculty will follow this new process. As there is now, there will be 1 contact person from the PTO who will reserve rooms for events (historically this has been the Communications Chairperson, and that can continue).
 - By the end of February the PTO will book the Gator Gallup, Clothing Sale and Fun Fair dates. Following that, the faculty will book their dates. Then in April, the PTO and Scouts can book other event dates (Movie Nights, etc.). Following that the calendar will be opened up to other outside organizations (Park District, other groups, etc.), allowing them to book their dates.
 - AGS Fun Fair will be on Friday, March 4 2016, with set up starting the day before on Thursday, March 3, 2016. The following event dates for 2015-2016 need to be confirmed: Gator Gallop (Oct. 2 – to be confirmed); AGS Clothing Sale (date to be confirmed based on the date of Batavia Homecoming.)
- PARCC Testing will begin in March with Part 1/Performance Based Assessment testing in the mornings (first week will be for 3rd grade; second week will be for 4th grade; 3rd week will be for 5th grade.)
 - The following week will be make-up testing for each grade. All testing will be done on Chrome books, with the 3rd graders borrowing Chromebooks from the 4th grade for the testing. Info will be sent out shortly to parents. More information about the PARCC test is available at PARCConline.org.
- Matt Jeffrey reported on the Watch DOGs program indicating the program is going well, though more Dad volunteers are encouraged to sign up for the remainder of the year. He will have a table set up at Fun Fair with 2 computers so they can sign up for shifts and order shirts/Watch DOG gear. He plans to host a Thank You event in the spring for the dads as well.

- Dr. Wright shared that an additional EC Blended class was started in February (afternoon session). This is for special needs children as well as At Risk and general community children. She expects that this will grow into a morning and afternoon class in the Fall as the program continues to grow.
- AGS will host Kindergarten Preview with 2 sessions on March 13, 2015.

Teacher Report – Nick Davis

Nick has put the word out to the teachers that there will be a need for a new Teacher Representative next year as he won't be returning to the role, so there will be an opening.

President Report – Kim Ambrose

- AGS Website will likely be updated for re-launch at the start of the new school year (August or September, 2015.)
- Kim encouraged board members to try the Shoparoo app to benefit AGS, as she and several others are testing it now. Shoppers can scan a store receipt into the app and points can be earned for AGS. The app sends a check to the school if we earn over 25,000 points (which equals \$50).
- The next BIC meeting will be March 7, 2015 from 8:30-10:30. Deb Nielsen will attend and Somya will check her schedule to see if she's also available to attend.

New PTO Board members installation

- The new PTO Board members will and their positions will be posted at the end of February to the website. During the March PTO Board meeting, they will be nominated for their positions and they will be voted into office during the General AGS PTO meeting on April 27.
- The new board members will shadow the current board members during the months of April and May.
- The new budget review and approval timing will be as follows: the initial budget draft will be reviewed and discussed during the PTO Board meeting on April 13, with the final vote for approval taking place during the General meeting on April 27.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jen Meiring and Deb Rempert