

May 2015 Board Minutes

Board members present: Kim Ambrose, Jen Meiring, Somya Bergman, Amanda Davis, Dawn Scheck, Deb Rempert, Nancy Kerr, Jan Wright, Nicholas Davis, Deb Nielsen, Mary Anne Callahan, Becky Paulin, Sue Minnec

Board members absent: Marcie Mefford, Andy Mareska, Marsha Stierwalt

Other parents/guardians: Melissa Dempsey EC Rep

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

President-K.Ambrose

- Welcome-introduction of board positions.
- New names tags were distributed and small gifts to outgoing members given.
- Angel's retirement: we received the sports chair and will give it to Angel at the end of year assembly.
- End of year assembly is the last day school in afternoon.
- Committee movement confirmation: This has been discussed at many meetings. Actual fundraising events will be under Ways & Means and other activities like Book Club, Walk/Bike to School, etc. will be under the 1st VP position. Most committee positions are filled for the 2015-16 year except for 5.
- Batavia Interschool Council (BIC): Come fall, there will be a sign up for BIC meetings. There are 5 during the year. Held at the district building on Saturdays from 8:30am-10:30 am. The meetings are very informative. We would like 2 representatives for each Saturday. Our PTO has learned a lot this year including fund raising ideas, school app, ECC funding, etc.
- PTO closet: It's usual state. Funfair items are on floor as well as Cub Scout on floor. Racks to be made. Not sure how much going to clean out since we did so much last year but may need to be organized. Angel last day is the 29th. Could have for next year's custodian.
- PTO meetings for the new year: we have a board meeting every month and 2 general membership meetings each school year. Inform Kim if you are not able to attend

Secretary-D.Scheck

- Approval of April board minutes: Nancy motioned to approve the minutes; Amanda seconded; the minutes were unanimously approved.
- Review Year-at-a-Glance Calendar: everyone is to review the calendar, as there are many event dates that are not solidified.

Treasurer-A.Davis

The new QuickBooks format was showcased. Amanda and Andy Mareska are still learning about it and still tweaking it. It works well with the Gazette.

1st VP-J.Meiring

- Gator Gallop fundraising: concern of asking multiple people multiple times
- Yearbook: it showed up today. Regarding the contract, Kim and Jen will review together.

2nd VP-S.Bergman

No report

Classroom Support-N.Kerr

- Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Everything went as planned – all positive feedback. Theme/ Decorations, Superman chocolates, Breakfast, massages, luncheon, gift. Students and HRP appropriate with note/flower/gift. Teachers appreciative.
 - I had lots of help. 100 parents helping me. Sue Minnec , training. Andy made coffee. SUG = great with donations.
 - Spent way under – dishes \$150, chicken \$27 Woodman’s gift cert - \$60 in coffee/decorations. (knives and silverware were donated and all other food on SUG. Y/N Paper Cutter? YES
 - Mr. Jeffrey – JB grilled – I offered to grill burgers next year. Webber grill in courtyard. (no gas grill for gift)
 - Feedback from staff? Haven’t heard anything negative.
 - Mr. Davis sent a message letting everyone know the dishes and knives were their gift.
 - EC parent got a Keuring for the EC lounge.
- End of year picnics: HRP were instructed to start planning. Most are already arranged by teachers. Reminded to submit receipts by end of school year to Amanda.
- Field Day: Mr. Park’s Volunteer Spot sign up? Mr. Park is borrowing FF dart game and Kevin Preas’ board. And 3 water coolers were pulled forward. & EZ up which is a blue tent. The sign up is through Volunteer Spot.
- Head Room Parents for next year: Sue Minnec and I will meet Thursday. I will recommend we run it the same way. 1-2 HRPs in charge and all parents get communications as “room parents”.

- Ice Cream Social: Date yet? Who will communicate with Heidi Pryor for date? Heidi will take care of ice cream portion, Sue will take care of PTO table/ recruiting with W&M to fill open chair positions. Remember – board’s job is face to face “recruiting”. Best feedback we received is that the best way to get people to volunteer is to go up to them and suggest they sign up
- First Day Coffee: Coffee pot detail has been handed off to Sue and Andy M. Again, Sue will be busy recruiting for HRP, art parents with W&M. Volunteer to start the coffee at 8 AM? Put food on agenda for August meeting. \$50 budget. There’s coffee left over in the EC freezer.
- Welcome Melissa Dempsey (ECC parent representative): Melissa will be communicating all AGS PTO information to EC families.
 - We will work on the communications. Jenny Melvin current EC parent rep gave feedback – frustrated with communication – A-Z etc. (73 out of 84 EC parents are in A-Z) – a lot of misunderstanding. Suggestion to have ECC e-correspondence go out through Caroline/messenger.
 - Created a Job description for Melissa – clear expectations.
 - First 2 assignments = revise the EC welcome letter. Update the “how I can help the AGS PTO” letter (3 fold brochure), and the ECC year at a glance.
 - Board Decide if you want to do a PTO welcome table at EC open house again – put on Aug. agenda.
 - Melissa will have to work closely with secretary Becky for dates, year at a glance. And closely with Deb Neilson.
 - For the record – Jenny Melvin sent TAW letter home – only 1 person replied to her to help. Only 3 signed up on SUG, and Jenny personally purchased a Kureg for ECC. 1st year with parent rep and I feel less participation.
- FunFair: Yes, Hawaiian Surfin’ Luau. There is tons of Luau stuff in stores now. Please don’t purchase anything. But if you see something that we absolutely must have – e-mail or text me a picture of where it is.

Ways and Means: D.Rempert

- Book fair status: Mrs. Ashby is a big supporter of having it here. Lisa Foydel and Tami Wilson are both open at having it here or B&N. Mrs. Ashby wants to be part of planning and will assist with scheduling. It could be book fair day instead of lesson day. They are looking at Anderson book fair group vs.

- Scholastic. And they are deciding if it should be in December or another month. They are open to have an evening time and possible reading event.
- Gus' Gift Card Shoppe: make sure it's advertised more. We need to coordinate timing better with events like a week or so before Teacher Appreciation week and before Christmas, etc.
 - Dine Arounds
 - We have the new school year's first Dine Around set at Pal Joey's on September 2nd.
 - Money received from last event at Pal Joey's had a miscommunication in regards to sales. We were supposed to receive a \$350 check but received \$275 then received another \$100 check.
 - \$2801.20 has been raised from Dine Arounds this year.
 - Next year, the committee chair is going to work on Chipotle, Panera and other bigger chains like Buffalo Wild Wings and take away some other low revenue restaurants.
 - We still may try and do one/month. And we are going to coordinate with events with school.
 - Potbelly did well with B&N book fair.
 - Market Day/Schwan's: Renee Culbertson informed us that there will be 2 truck sales over summer. Shoppers place orders online and pick up from truck. The dates are July 1st and August 12th. Shoppers prepay only on-line. We don't have a coordinator currently. We don't need one for the summer truck events. This will be the first time for summer truck.
 - We need a volunteer for next year whether it is Market Day or Schwan's.
 - Schwan's is low maintenance. Shoppers order online and it's delivered to their house.
 - Questions arose about Schwan's being at the ice cream social with food samples.
 - Amanda may be 90% could be the coordinator and should know by July 1st
 - Batavia Interschool Council (BIC): Deb and Marcie attended.
 - The meeting was quieter as it was not well attended.
 - They discussed emergency closings and are compiling information.
 - They were surprised that parents were not clear if they want to have kids at school or not during frigid days.
 - On potential weather days, a conference call occurs at 4am. It is discussed what other districts are doing including Chicago schools.
 - Forecasted temperature vs. times of day are discussed, particularly 9am and 4pm when students would be travel to and from school.
 - They discussed the possibility of something wrong occurring in school during the day and students have to evacuate. It

could be too frigid for students if they cannot retrieve the proper outdoor attire.

- They will better communicate why call day off.
- They discussed the digital learning plan and a lot of discussion about Chromebooks.
- Brad Newkirk discussed discipline changes at Rotolo regarding truancy.
- Other elementary schools use A to Z, but AGS is the only one with the app.
- H.C. Storm is planning a parent's night out trivia night at the Moose Lodge.
- They also tried a 4th&5th grade only movie night. Parents dropped off their children and were supervised by volunteers. They had about 50 kids participate.
- H.C. Storm is doing a Cougars Night and Pride Night, which is like an art show.
- Hoover Wood is having a volunteer appreciation night at Pal Joeys. The event is teacher supported. AGS used to have a volunteer luncheon.
- Louise White did Earth Day events. They also had a pajama family morning for book fair.
- H.C. Storm is excited about their outdoor classroom.
- J.B. Nelson did a talent show. The students did the entire production.
- J.B. Nelson did a WATCHDOGS appreciation
- Hoover Wood is getting rid of Market Day.

Communications-M.Mefford, B.Paulin

No report

Principal-J.Wright

- LRC design: Jan has a schematic for the LRC design.
 - A bit of history was given of where/why we want to fundraise the LRC remodeling.
 - Interiors for Business is being used to help design the area.
 - A committee is a part of the remodeling and includes Tamara Ashby, Deb Rempert, Jan Wright and Kay Diverde.
 - The board reviewed the schematics, which are opening up the LRC space.
 - The plan is solidified.
 - Pricing has options so definite price cannot be given.
 - The first areas are the green areas since those are teaching areas.
 - We'd like to begin this summer.

- We may possibly want to have small finance committee. If we are 501c and are supposed to have a zero balance, do we may not need to discuss.
- The committee is meeting with Interiors for Business on Friday.
- The color scheme is not figured out.
- The differences in prices are in the furniture and other options chosen. For example, tables in the teaching area can be folded up and wheeled away while others are on wheels but do not fold up. The 1st option costs more.
- The entire project will probably be close to the \$100K range.
- Pat Browne, Director for Buildings & Grounds, is looking into a company that leases to buy in order to pay for furniture over time.
- Will instructional tables be varied in heights? NO, they are only used for 3rd-5th grades.
- Teachers will be able to access various areas of the LRC and there will be an area for parent volunteers to use for small groups.
- A PowerPoint presentation will be sent when options are decided.
- Amanda Davis motioned to use 40K to spend on LRC; Mary Anne Callahan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- Courtyard
 - Four benches were purchased with this year's money, and 4 more with next year's money.
 - Joey Keers, an eagle scout, is going to clean out swamp and build a deck in form of hexagon and benches will be built around the deck.
 - Some Boy and Girl Scout troops would like to clean up the courtyard, as in pulling weeds and sweeping up. One Girl Scout troop was denied but not sure why. Katy Sudler's group asked to do as service project. They ended up cleaning white tables for Angel.
 - Sharon Kolb's troop and Boy Scout troop that Nata-Leigh Preas is involved with are going to clean up AGS courtyard in August.
 - The ECC courtyard needs some attention as well.
 - All groups should contact Dr. Wright.
- New parent orientation will occur again this year. This is available for all families of kindergarteners and new AGS families. We introduce ourselves and give scripted tours. This is August 10th at 6pm. Please arrive earlier for instructions. The August board meeting will follow around 7pm.
- Teacher Meet & Greet and Ice Cream Social is August 14th.
- Dr. Wright wanted the PTO to know first that after 33 years in education, this next school year will be her last. Everyone noted Dawn's dislike of this. (iSad, pfffttt)
- Science Technology Engineering Math (S.T.E.M.): Dr. Wright is not at liberty to give out the names of those who got in.

- We are still looking for dad to update the wooden GUS. Miss Cannon may be willing to paint. This could be a scout project. We will need to the new alligator the district gives us.

Teacher Representative(s)-N.Davis, D.Nielsen, M.Stierwalt

- Thanks from teachers for Teacher Appreciation week. The celebration was wonderful.
- Notes of appreciation were passed around.
- Mary Anne did the graphic of the superhero sheet.

Round Table Discussion

- Mary Anne would like a vector-based alligator instead of jpeg file form of the new alligator if possible. This will come from the district's web designer. Mr. Ahrens of Rule 29.
- We discussed checkbooks, a coupon book, for the school. A company will solicit area businesses and restaurant-based businesses and we sell the books. There was a concern if this would compete with Gus' Gift Card Shoppe.
- The teacher's lounge cabinets need to be cleaned up and organized. Dawn Scheck is willing to do. ECC may want extra items from the AGS lounge.
- QuickBooks allows for 3 people to view at one time. Mrs. Cronin might be a good person to view since she has a lot of questions. This is not a problem. She will be limited what can do with it.
- August 10th is the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dawn Scheck

