



October 2015 Board Minutes

Board members present: Kim Ambrose, Jen Meiring, Dawn Scheck, Andy Mareska, Deb Rempert, Mary Anne Callahan, Becky Paulin, Sue Minnec, Jan Wright, Nicholas Davis, Deb Nielsen

Board members absent: Matt Jeffrey, Marsha Stierwalt

Other parents/guardians: Melissa Dempsey, ECC Rep

Meeting called to order: 6:32, Monday, Oct. 19

Secretary – D. Rempert:

Motion to approve September PTO Board Meeting minutes Motion made by Jen Meiring, seconded by Dawn Scheck. Approved.

1st VP – J. Meiring:

Gator Gallop update – we ran out of water and popsicles at the event this year (last year had a lot of both left over so the count was based on last year.

- Shirts preorder went well – had 152 preregistered 34 onsite; 23 registered at event last year (so increase)
- \$6,100 last year raised – still awaiting of this year so about \$7,000 is what we anticipate (numbers still being figured)
 - 2 sponsors gave \$500 this year
- Going forward Jen would recommend having more people work on the event (as a committee). She would like to see many more people be involved - perhaps every grade has a representative involved in the Gator Gallop (and thereby create a committee like Fun Fair event has). Positions needed are a concessions person, a raffle person, an envelope collection and organization person, a prizes person; with an overseer for the whole event.
- Concerns noted by Board: Food and water was in the hallway again this year and that is dangerous (Dr. Wright). We need to make sure to announce to adults at the beginning of the event to help us monitor the children. We also need more people to be stationed around the hallways/the school. Dawn had the idea that perhaps the person appointed by each grade can be stationed by that grade in the hallway and monitor that area.
- An idea raised was to try to plan the event to be outside but then use inside the school as the rain plan. One lap around the outside school could be an X on their tally cards. Music would still work outside.
- Safety concern question raised: We would have to have more monitors stationed around, but Dr. Wright thinks it would be fine.

- Food sales for the event: 2 bags of apples, 80 fruit pops, a lot of popcorn, 2 full bunches of bananas, 24 cheese sticks, 18 boxes of raisins, and 60 granola bars.
- Coordinator needs to buy extra water in the future to be sure have enough – can always use it for other events later in the year.

2nd VP – D. Scheck:

ECC Funds – asked other PTOs to contribute (letter going out this week to all the presidents).

Classroom Support – S. Minnec:

- Halloween parties are coming up the Friday before Halloween (Oct. 30). All announcements have been sent to parents and parties will be ½ hour with no food again.
- The costume parade will begin at 2:30 and if the weather is good they will go outside; if not the parents will stand at east side doors to view.

Communications – B. Paulin:

- The Yearbook coming together; Becky now has access to the yearbook website. A meeting has been planned with her committee.
- School pictures: She is meeting with a new vendor, Cady Kids (they use outdoor picture settings). She will be meeting with them on Thursday to evaluate their program. They offer multiple photo poses and parents can choose from them. Question was raised asking how long each photo shoot takes. Right now it takes a ½ day for everyone except the Afternoon Kindergarten group (and it goes very quickly. Teachers like this because there's less impact on instructional time).
 - Becky reported that there was a problem with the retakes of photos – photographer was supposed to be there at 8 a.m., and at 8:45 Caroline from the office called him; he arrived at 9 a.m. to start. This is the third sales rep we have worked with at this company since we signed with them. All agreed we need better service from them. Becky has told VP she is not satisfied with this service and is pursuing. Another concern was raised that for the Preschoolers – ECC in particular - the photographer was having them step up on a step stool instead of lowering the camera to the child's level and that's a hazard/dangerous risk.

Ways and Means – M. Callahan: (see MA notes)

Dine Around updates

- **Oct:** Chick-fil-A – Raised a total of **\$289.10** (20% of \$960.49 food + \$97 plinko)
- **Nov: Panera 11/12**, available to the **teachers with a lunch delivery**. This one will be marketed to the **ENTIRE district**.

- **Dec:** Trying the Range and maybe McDonald's
- Adriana is concerned about overtaxing families with asking for too much, making them turn-away from giving at all. Many people don't understand our budget and how much our PTO dollars provide the functioning of so much in our school. Another thing Adriana noted to keep in mind, when we want to book with a corporation, it usually takes quite a bit of time (requests, paperwork, contracts, approvals, etc) versus the locally owned places. For example, Panera takes 4-6 weeks.
Adriana asked has the Board ever thought about sending out a general donation request letter to families, just asking straight up for a donation? Board members discussed and the answer was yes, this is handled via Gator Gallop, where families can write a check of support. Board members like having various events for the AGS community, and that families can participate/not participate as they choose (a 'something for everyone' sort of approach to the fundraising).
- Adriana may be taking on a part-time job, if she does, another person will need to be recruited if 2 Dine Arounds a month are what will be the new expectation. Board members asked Mary Anne to encourage Adriana to find a second person who may split the role in some way with her.
- KEEP DECEMBER TRYING TO GET TWO DINE AROUNDS FOR THE WEEK OF BOOK FAIR. LATER WE WILL REVISIT ADDING MORE WHEN WE KNOW MORE.

Book Fair update w/Dine Around(s)

- The book fair will be November 30th - December 4th in the LRC.
- We have booked Scholastic. Anderson just seemed too expensive, sadly. Scholastic will drop off boxes on Tuesday, November 24th. Set up over the weekend.
- Hours:
Monday 11/30: 9 am - 3:30 pm
Tuesday 12/01: 9 am - 3:30 pm & 6 pm - 8 pm
Wednesday 12/02: 9 am - 3:30 pm
Thursday 12/03: 9 am - 8 pm
Friday 12/04: 9 am - 3:30 pm and clean up
- We are going to offer two nights to shop (**barring any issues obtaining volunteers**).
- Mrs. Ashby will check with Mrs. Jensen about music, then ask about staff/teachers dressing up as literary characters and to see if students can pick their favorite again.
- Tami Wilson will be setting up Signup Genius for volunteers.

- I will make sure information is in the November Gazette and pushed often through messenger/fb/twitter etc.
- WE WILL PROVIDE AN HOUR (3:10 PM ON DEC. 1ST) FOR EC TO SHOP WITH PARENTS. MR. JEFFRIES WILL DRESS UP AS “WINNING” CHARACTER ON DEC.1ST. MR. S WILL DO READINGS ON THURSDAY DEC. 3RD.

Schwan’s

- Our Schwan's campaign begins 10/27. A link to the campaign along with widgets has been given to Becky as well as a few flyers.
- Schwans-cares.com, enter Campaign ID: 24069
- When you order by December 11th, 20% of product and 40% of eGift Card sales will go back to the organization.

Movie Night/license

- We owe \$415 for the annual movie license, which is due ASAP. There is an option to purchase a single license per movie. The cost is about \$172 for premium titles and \$128 for all others per showing. Two of the movies the chairs chose are \$172. This option would save us between \$71-\$159 (based on choice of movie and I was informed the costs will be changing soon).
- How do we pay Pete (our maintenance)?
- Sarah and Katherine would like to have the children vote on the movie like they did last year, tomorrow, Tuesday 10/20 or on Monday 10/25 at lunch time.
- They have three movies they’d like to choose from:
 1. (The new) Cinderella - \$172
 2. Tomorrowland - \$128
 3. Inside Out (11/3) - \$172
- EMAIL MOVIE LICENSING COMPANY ABOUT RENEWING OUR LICENSE FOR THE FULL YEAR.

5 Below

Three weekends set up:

- Nov 27, 28, 29
- Dec 4, 5, 6 – WEEKEND FOLLOWING BOOK FAIR
- Dec 18, 19, 20

Fun Fair 2016:

Hawaiian Surfin’ Luau, March 4th, 2016. 5-8 PM with ECC hour 4-5 PM.

Concerns for the Board as shared by Mary Anne/Nancy Kerr:

- Team is concerned about attendance on a 3-4 day weekend and estimate profit may be more like \$7,000 – NON ISSUE
- Are PTO board members still willing to make 2-3 crockpots of pulled pork? Who offered last year? PTO WILL DONATE 3 CROCKPOTS (DR. WRIGHT, JEN MEIRING & SUE MINNIC) NO ONE REMEMBERS AGREEING TO MAKING PULLED PORK, RECOMMEND BUYING FROM COSTCO.
- Going to ask staff for volunteers and special jobs like dressing up in grass skirt and Hawaiian shirt to sell 50/50 tickets
- The PTO Board is also still needed for special positions the night of FF. Please let Nata-Leigh know if you are available.
- FF will need 6 iPads for square
- Nancy will discuss banks directly with Andy
- We need ECC staff and will ask student council to work EC hour again

Trivia Night

Still need help with donations and volunteers. More teams continue to sign up but we still have openings.

Principal – J. Wright:

- Watch Dogs have 50 out of 141 days filled (about 21%); seem to be down from last year. EC parents/dads can do that as well – they will be signed up exclusively for EC (1/2 or full day options). Watch dogs start and end their days with their own child as a standard program practice.
- Courtyard Update– the deck not complete but there is progress. She is hoping benches are still part of his plan (a railing has gone up around it). It is very nicely constructed, Jan reports.
- School Improvement Plan –Dr. Wright will be sharing the SIP Action Plan for 2015-2016 with the school community shortly. She asked the Board to review the action plan and give feedback on clarity of message
 - The tiers are based with Tier 0=Students at the 90%ile or above, Tier 1-Students between 50%-89%ile (this is the goal of where most students should land); Tier 2=Students between 21% and 49%ile and Tier 3=Students below 20%ile. This is based on MAP Scores with the Fall testing being the last period measured.
 - There is also a behavioral goal that by May 2016 we will have reduced the number of behavioral referrals for disrespect by 10% (in 2014-15 there were 47 referrals – our new goal will mean a reduction of 10% or 5 referrals).

- Action plan summary improvements include introducing a Student Ownership concept for setting math, reading and behavioral goals, along with Parent Partnerships where the students join the parents in parent-teacher conferences (so students can be part of the conversation of how they can set goals and be best supported by parents).

Teacher Liaisons – N. Davis, D. Nielsen:

- Marsha /Nick – Suggested that the AGS PTO bulletin board should be brightened up/pizzazzed with more information
- Nick has some paper that is fadeless and will hold up better and he offered it for this purpose. Nick and Marsha offered to help with posting some items as well.
- The students see that board only – parents don't typically come in that door so it should be kid-friendly
- Deb – Gator Gallop – had a great time and had 25-28 kids who came.
- Early Childhood is encouraging more children to have Spirit Wear (28 orders for Bitty Bulldog items) and they reduced the price per item to do that. They used the extra money they had to help purchase t-shirts for those who didn't have them (trying to get them all to have them). Will also be a good way to identify students for field trips.
- Melissa – parents are starting to say they feel the AGS PTO and EC are blending together – they feel more aware of what's occurring. Word of mouth is really working and Melissa promoting to parents is very effective. Parent heard the teachers promote activities at curriculum night.

Treasurer – A. Mareska:

- Awaiting the Bank of America check still; income 1,100 over budget (Gator Gallop big event from last time).
- Spirit wear – did we get the 10% from the September promotion (10% extra goes back to PTO)– Andy will follow up to see if we're getting a check or how that is working
- App – the goal is that all events will be on the first page; push notifications will be important – we have to have the app first then the push notifications can go out for Dine Arounds, Fun Fair, etc;
- The 'How I Can Help' icon – information goes to Mary Anne for Ways and Means. Can we change the color scheme? Can it be green instead so it is more AGS color oriented (yes, Andy/Becky believe that can be done).
- \$57/month is one option (pay monthly); \$48/month (for yearly option – pay once per year); \$41/month for 2 years – plus the Apple App Store a \$99 annual developer fee and Google Play charges a one-time fee of \$25.
- Question if we change the pages significantly will there be additional charges to push it out again?
- Will have the A-Z included as a link in there (since committed to the year – a secured content direction);

- We will use the first year to evaluate how to transition A-Z secured contact information to another (our website based) means – so we can save the \$600 cost of A-Z.
- Motion to approve the App for the AGS PTO (Andy made motion and seconded by Dawn); motion passed.

Mimeo board topic

- The concern was raised by Andy that when technology money was promised for this expenditure, it wasn't voted on by the AGS PTO Board. There is no recollection of this from the current board members who were in place at that time and it's not indicated in the minutes from past meetings. How did this commitment of funds for the Mimeo board come about?
- Andy asked if we can we go back to the school district and have them take responsibility for this expenditure?
- Jan: The money was just sitting there (in the budget under the Technology Funds line item) for a whole school year (earmarked as technology money). The opportunity to purchase the Mimeo Boards was "a last minute thing." The board didn't vote on it as the funds were in the budget already, awaiting expenditure under 'technology'. Board members asked how do we resolve this so as not to drag it on to the end of the year? What is the expectation of school district and when they will come to us expecting repayment?
- Andy hasn't received a final invoice yet from the school district but believes the amount is \$8,000 from a past email he saw on the topic. Andy said if we want to keep reasonable bank for operations probably \$3,000-\$4,000 we can't pay this amount with the money we have and what is slated to be earned this year.
- Movie nights will be down (fewer planned this year than in past); Fun Fair is expected that it may be down; we have Assemblies money due (bills that are in). We are not out of woods for this (we don't have funds for this).
 - Jan proposed talking to the business department and see if they will take ½ amount now; and ½ later.
 - Board members asked if the school itself can cover some of this expense (perhaps we can use some of the money that was budgeted for the EC– we can look at that, Jan proposed).
 - Jan indicated the AGS school building budget doesn't have anything extra in it; if want to look further at PTO budget can do that, she proposed.
- Debbie R. asked a question about the issue of funding the second phase of the LRC remodel (and to confirm what is planned for the second phase)– glass enclosures; new furniture and adding cushy furniture pieces; (glass enclosures are the most expensive aspect - \$11,000-\$12,000. As a board we had promoted that this was where all our current fundraising was going (promoted at the last School Board meeting in September).

- Deb N. and Jan confirmed that the Mimeo boards – there are 3 of them – were for the ECC and are in the Early Childhood classrooms).
 - Jan wants to talk about the topic in depth with Andy (and others) – Jan will initiate some discussions and report back to the Board on this topic.

Round Table – All:

- Kim – BIC meeting (see Kim’s notes)– new redesigned website (branding logos mascots look for uniform). Sue Gillerlain can announce Dine Arounds and our events district-wide on the centralized calendar for the district
- Newsletter templates going to change in future – easier on mobile devices;
- We were first school to celebrate success at school board meeting; all schools are encouraged to do this.
- Gator Gazette – Question was raised by Kim of whether it is too long when you print it out? She asked Board members to keep eyes and ears open if parents are concerned about that. Board discussed it and thought is that it’s like our school newspaper and parents get to pick and choose what they want to read. All will listen to hear if it’s an issue parents are concerned with.

Next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 9, 2015 at The Range in downtown Batavia.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.