

Grundy PTO Meeting – Monday, March 25, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Jessica Belsly at 6:27pm. Those in attendance were Jessica Belsly, Andrea White, Erica Kennedy, Amanda Wright, Michael Saunders, Julie LeMasters, Sara Dally, Toni Martiens, Gina Strubhar, Anna Bennett, Dr. Jeff Hill, Jeff Schmidgall, Kim Larrabee, Jeanie Dennis, Elise Pate, Holly Manthey, Mike Manthey, and Dan Beckler.

The Minutes from the March 4, 2019 PTO meeting were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports:

Accelerated Reading – Sara Dally, present, and Elise Pate, present. The second Prize Patrol was held on March 22 and received good feedback on the prizes. The last Prize Patrol will likely be May 17. Previous teacher concerns over the sharing of points among the students seems to have been addressed.

After School Clubs – No chair. Soccer starts on March 26.

Book Fair – Jessica Belsly, present & Andrea White, present. They used Scholastic dollars to purchase a new banner after the wind tore up the previous one. Final deliveries of teacher requests completed and activities wrapped up for the school year.

Box Tops for Education – Erica Kennedy, present. The tally for the 2018-2019 school year was \$1,268.40 with \$437.40 of that collected in March.

Carnival – Holly & Mike Manthey, present. The carnival went very well, although wondered if March Madness events may have cut into attendance somewhat. They will need a new person to coordinate Baskets for 2019-2020, and the Mantheys are wanting to step down from chairing the carnival after 2019-2020 – they are hoping to have someone shadow them next year and take over fully for them in 2020-2021 school year. Amanda Wright mentioned it may be possible to arrange for some form of discount or donation of Pepsi products towards the carnival food purchase since Pepsi is her employer.

Fannie May – Gina Strubhar, present & Jackie Elsesser, not present. No update.

Fast Food Nights – Dan Beckler, present. Culvers was held on March 19 but totals not yet in. Dan will work with Mr. Saunders to set up a Dairy Queen event likely in April. Still collecting information about ticket purchase, but the Peoria Chiefs event will be Friday, May 17. Kona Ice will be at the Grundy Picnic in May.

Grundy Gear – Mr. Saunders, present. The Spring order is due on Friday, March 29.

Laugh Olympics – Jayne Eisenman, not present. Date set for Thursday, May 23 – last full day for students. Planning is currently underway.

Mystery Science – Jessica Belsly, present. Mystery Science regularly updates their offerings and we will need someone to check in with the teachers on a regular basis to see if they want any of the new lessons.

Picture Person – No chair. Sara Dally has agreed to take over the chair for the 2019-2020 school year. There will be a 4th Grade and 6th Grade Picture Person before the end of the school year.

PTO Publicity – Andrea White, present. Let Andrea know if anyone has content to be posted on the PTO Bulletin Board – presently is planning to display info about the school supply kits as well as the Kroger and Amazon programs.

Room Parent Coordinators – Tiffany Parrott, not present. The last event for the school year are the Easter parties scheduled for April 12.

School Supply Kits – Ashley Smith, not present. Ashley is still expecting two more lists via Mrs. Shaw and then will be ready for submission. The purchase information for the kits will be available by the end of the school year.

Teacher Appreciation – Sarah Chadbourn, not present. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10. May 6 is the PTO breakfast, May 7 is the PTO lunch, May 8 is the District lunch, May 9 is the PTO lunch, and May 10 will be the PTO ice cream social.

Yearbook – Amanda Wright, present. Money for LifeTouch will need to be submitted by Monday, April 1. We presently have 198 orders out of the minimum order of 250. Not meeting the 250 threshold may alter the price of the yearbooks. Amanda still has time to incorporate pictures from clubs, parties, carnival, etc if available but would need original size rather than photos compressed through texting. For next year, Beth Shook will be taking over Yearbook. There was also discussion about whether we could utilize something like Google Photo Album so that the albums can be shared by class to parents and teachers for the purpose of gathering and organizing photos for the yearbook next year.

Maintenance of List of Donations from Businesses

No items

Budget Report:

Sara Dally present, Julie LeMasters, present. Received \$200 from Morton Roller Rink. Deposited checks & payments for LifeTouch re: yearbooks. Outgoing money for AR Prizes as well as carnival food, decorations, vendors, prizes. Outgoing money for teacher purchases and Kona Ice Party for 1st & 6th grades.

Old Business

- Explore options for families to contribute to Grundy PTO via card payment. Square service charges about \$60 in fees for every \$1,000 of transactions. Sara will continue to research potential vendors. Current thinking is that we could try a proof-of-concept with the carnival next year, and if satisfactory, extend to other PTO activities.
- Vote to decide if Grundy PTO will assist with the purchase of 5th & 6th Grade lockers, and if so, what amount to contribute towards the total purchase cost of \$12,481.95. Since

the March 4 PTO meeting, the District has asked the Grundy PTO to provide 25% of the cost, which is \$3,120.49.

- **Motion to approve paying 25% of the locker purchase cost, which is \$3,120.49. Approved.**

- Update on playground slide replacement. Original estimate of \$3,500 not feasible. Non-enclosed / freestanding slides are roughly \$5,000 not including installation and delivery. Erica will further research and refine the estimates and expects to have more options for the April PTO meeting. The approximate budget for the project is now set for \$7,000-\$10,000 which would include purchase, delivery, and installation.

New Business

- CFST (County Facilities Sales Tax) Presentation by Dr. Hill.

Work under consideration:

- Junior High in 2 phases:
 1. A more secure entryway that also adds additional office space. Also make the drop-off area safer and increase parking spaces.
 2. Gym and additional classroom space
- High School:
 1. Cafeteria and library needs improvements
 2. Improvements to the entryway for the gym
 3. Design and implement STEM classrooms

Current projections show the next 15 years of enrollment to be flat with maybe 100-150 student increase over the next 15 years. Dr. Hill also noted that economic conditions in Morton and the surrounding area can alter those projections.

Important facts presented by Dr. Hill and School Board Member Jeff Schmidgall:

- Morton District 709 will pay back the current construction bonds and freeze property taxes for one year saving the owner of a \$200,000 home roughly \$200 per year in the first 4 years after CFST is passed and permanently reducing property taxes.
- With the 1% sales tax, a family owning a \$200,000 home would have to spend over \$20,000 per year in taxable items to not come out ahead during the first four years.
- Visitors to Tazewell County who go out to eat or stay in our hotels contribute to the district facilities revenue, lessening the tax burden on Morton citizens.
- Groceries, medication, large purchases like cars, boats, farm equipment are not taxed.
- All counties surrounding Tazewell (with the exception of McLean) have passed the CFST.
- What will the sales tax money be used for? In the near term,
 1. Paying off the debt from the recent additions to the elementary schools.
 2. Freezing the levy for one year, resulting in permanent tax relief.
 3. Fully funding repairs, maintenance, and renovation of existing buildings – an estimated \$25 million over the next 15 years.

Roughly 30% of the proposed taxed applicable sales comes from people living outside of Tazewell County. Morton schools would expect to receive around \$2 million per year.

Why is this on the ballot again? Feedback was that the community didn't quite understand what the School Board wanted to accomplish. Also, nearly all other County school boards had approved placing the measure on the ballot this time – it was going to be on the ballot whether District 709 voted to include it or not.

- Q&A time with Kim Larrabee re: her candidacy for Board of Education. Kim grew up in Washington and has been in Morton 20 years. 4 kids with 2 girls in high school. Spent 12 years with Caterpillar as a Project Manager and Business Analyst. With Michelle Bernier stepping down, Kim wants to maintain a variety of perspectives on the Board. She asks for everyone to go out and vote on April 2.

Teacher Input

Jeanie Dennis, present. The teachers are happy!

Principal's Report

Mar 26	ELL Family Night from 6:00-7:15 at Jefferson
Mar 30	Heidi White Memorial Concert at 6:00
Apr 1	KG to Johnson's Floral from 11:50-1:10
Apr 2	Election Day; KM to Johnson's Floral from 11:50-1:10; Board meeting at 6:30
Apr 3	Dismissal at 1:10
Apr 4	5 th grade Wax Museum from 6:00-7:00
Apr 9	Choir Tour at 8:35; Board meeting at 7:15
Apr 11	6 th grade to Medieval Times from 7:30-4:30; PTO staff breakfast at 7:45; "It's the Easter Beagle, Charlie Brown" at 1:45
Apr 12	4 th Quarter Mid-Term; 6 th grade breakfast from 8:00-11:00; Band/Orchestra Tour at 11:00; Easter parties
Apr 13-22	Easter Break – no school
Apr 23	School resumes
Apr 24	Office Staff Appreciation Day
Apr 25	ISA testing in 5 th grade at 9:45
Apr 26	Dunlap Music Contest
Apr 29	Spring MAP testing begins; PTO meeting at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Beckler.