

## Miller Elementary PTO Minutes

Date: Monday January 22, 2018

The meeting came to order at 4:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### -Treasurer's Report

- Santa Shop- \$1,500
- Little Caesar's Pizza Kits- \$1,800 + Prize Drawing Winnings of an additional \$1,000 for a total of \$2,800!!!
- Dual in the D Ticket Sales- \$370
- Spirit Wear- \$162
- A motion was made by Holly Bank to use a portion of the Scholastic Dollars to donate to the new STEM class. The proposal is \$1,000. Motion was seconded by Selena Erickson and passed unanimously that the STEM class receive said funds for supplies/materials through Scholastic Co.

### -Mrs. Gilbert

- NWEA Testing is taking place this week and next for all grades K-5. DRA Testing to begin soon.
- Ice Cream is now only being offered once a week, Wednesdays, at lunch in the cafeteria, \$1.
- Last month all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Roll Students were treated to a free ice cream treat and their names read over the loud speaker system during class. The kids enjoyed it.
- Leader In Me Symposium is being held soon in Livonia. Miller Elementary has applied to be a Tour Host for attendees to visit Miller Elementary to see how the Leader In Me philosophy is applied here.
- Leadership Day will be held again this year, dates TBA. The theme will be "Choose Kind," based on the movie "Wonder," and keeping with our Cinema theme for this year.
- Drop off for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders is going smoother, previous issues of students being outside too long has been addressed.
- Superintendent Naughton's last day is Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>, at which time Donovan Rowe will become acting Superintendent of our Huron Public School District.
- There have been 20 new students added since October 2017. This has required additional furniture, supplies, and funds. All of which have been obtained to accommodate our growing student body.

### -Upcoming Events

- RAC Night Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-8:30. Cost is \$8/person which allows access to the gym, swimming pool, basketball courts, and a room for Miller families. Light snacks, water, and juice will be provided. No pizza.
- Valentine Grams will be sold Feb. 12-14<sup>th</sup>.
- Carnival is coming up fast, Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to plan and prepare in the weeks to come, all are welcome. There will also be a Sign-Up Genius email to volunteer for the day of the event: set-up, ticket sales, work games, food, and tear down.

- Possible Mother-Son/Father-Daughter Dance in April, Steak Dinner Fundraiser in May, and Field Day in June.

#### Playground Restoration Project Update

- Recent Donations: EngageIT and the Plackowski Family. Combined with \$1,000 from the Little Caesar's prize winnings = a Grand Total of **\$22,780!!!** That's almost halfway toward our \$50,000 goal.
- Grants: The Ralph C. Wilson Grant was applied for in September 2017 but the application was denied. Meghan McPherson volunteers to resubmit a new application for the 2018 year as soon as possible. More Grants need to be considered and help is needed. Selena Erickson volunteers to submit one through Home Depot, and Leslie Masciovecchio is also working on one.
- New Fundraising Ideas:
  - Steak Dinner through the Huron Sportsman Assoc. similar to the one put on during Applefest. Shawn Marentette to organize, possible date in May for outside dining.
  - A Daddy-Daughter/Mother-son Dance, Catherine Marek to organize, April 20<sup>th</sup> in the Miller Elementary Gym. Mrs. Gilbert will find out the maximum capacity of the room. Photographer and lights will be donated by Catherine, music can be played from the current sound system. "Red Carpet/Night at the Oscars" theme to go along with the Leader In Me Movie Star theme of the year. Pizza donations need to be arranged as well as decorations, and prizes for best dressed, best dancer, etc. Possible ticket prices \$20/couple.
  - A Can/Bottle Drive is suggested- people bring in their returnable cans and bottles and the money received will be put toward the Playground Fund. Would Miller Elementary be willing to donate their collections as well? An inquiry will be made to the custodial staff. Since the Little Caesar's Pizza Kits made more money than ever this year, a motion was made to hold this fundraiser again at the end of the year. Holly Bank to research.
  - "Hats On to a New Playground" day once a month when students can pay \$1 to wear a hat to school. Money collected will be put into the Playground Fund.
- Concerns from parents and the community, "Why are we responsible for raising these funds ourselves instead of our School Board agreeing to fund this project?" The PTO is requesting that as many parents and community members as possible get together to attend the School Board meeting held at Miller Elementary in April. This would allow people to briefly express their concerns on this topic and possibly get some answers. The School Board Members could then be asked to take a tour of the playground at Miller Elementary to gain understanding and perspective. Community concerns can only be made at the beginning of the meeting with each speaker getting only 3 minutes to talk. This meeting will be held on Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00. This discussion remains open and will be revisited with Principle Gilbert prior to the meeting to decided what will be in the best interest of the school as a whole.
- Principle Gilbert would also like to address a few concerns on this topic.
  - Having a playground is NOT mandatory at a public school.
  - There is no budget in place for playgrounds at public schools. Playgrounds do not fall into the grounds maintenance fund.

-Our school district is growing quickly and current funds are being spent on keeping up with this growth.

-The requests made by Miller Elementary for current needs (such as new desks for our 20 new students, more Chromebooks, and other supplies) are being met by the school board in a timely manner.

-Safety concerns on the playground have been addressed and dangerous equipment has either been removed or is currently caution taped off.

- A discussion was brought up about financing the remainder of the new playground versus paying the entire \$130,000 up front. The School Board will ultimately decide the outcome of this topic and the \$50,000 match on donations they are making available to the Playground Fund. However, Principle Gilbert may suggest that the playground be worked on in stages as opposed to all at once. This would allow purchase of a few items afforded by funds raised this year, then next year more funds would be required to purchase more equipment, etc. Possibly taking several years to complete. This discussion is open and is determinant on reaching the goal of \$50,000 first.

Next PTO Meeting will be on Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Attendance:

Raeann Ramsby- PTO President

Holly Bank- PTO Treasurer

Selena Erickson- PTO Secretary

Shawn Petty- PTO Vice President

Meghan McPherson- Co-Treasurer

Principle Gilbert

Erin Skamiera

Carrie Spencer

Catherine Marek

Katey Gutierrez

Amy Hinks

Tina Biette