

Miller Elementary PTO Minutes

Date: Monday Nov. 13, 2017

Meeting was brought to order at 4:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome New Huron School District Superintendent Donovan Rowe, thank you for attending today.

-Treasurer's Report

- \$26 was spent on Trunk-or-Treating Event. Candy and supplies were purchased for a total of \$66 and a \$40 donation was received as well as all cider and donuts being donated by Apple Charlies. Thank you to all participants, trunks, police and fire department, Smith Trucking, and Apple Charlies that made the event fun and safe for the kids!
- Learning A-Z and Raz Kids programs were purchased for all 22 classrooms, a total cost of \$2,570.
- Spirit Wear made \$350 at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you to all who ordered or purchased in October to show your school spirit!
- The Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser in October is projected to have raised around \$5,400 of which 100% will go into the Miller Playground Fund. Prizes were given out to the top earners in each grade and top earning class. An exact total will be announced next month.

-Title 1 Information Presented by Principle Gilbert

- Annual Title 1 Parent Involvement Report will come home in student folders soon. It is required that a Parent Advisory Committee must meet once a year to give information about Title 1. The Title 1 Secretary for our district has resigned, a new Secretary will be announced upon hiring.
- Miller Elementary is a "Title 1 Targeted Assistance" school. Meaning the school is not eligible for full Title 1 assistance but it does receive some. Eligibility is based on the number of students accepted into the free or reduced lunch program each school year, and the census. This number must be higher than the district average to be considered a "Title 1" school.
- "Targeted Assistance" means there is limited funding, therefore only some students will be able to take advantage of the Title 1 programs and funds. This determination is made by assessing student test scores and by teacher assessments. Students who benefit from the Title 1 Program at Miller Elementary are 2nd and 3rd Grade students who need additional help in subjects or are deemed by the State to be "at risk" for several reasons whether academic, economic, or social.
- Budget Title 1 Funds for 2017-2018 School Year is \$104,439. This amount is used to pay the Interventionist/Teacher's Salary, classroom supplies, and educational programs and materials necessary for the school year. This budget allows for around 20%-30% of students to benefit from this program. These funds are very restricted and, by law, can only be used for certain specific items. These items can vary from year to year.
- Focus areas are Reading and Math. Funds allow for Tutoring during the school year as well as the summers. The program is used in accordance with the Reading Intervention Law by the State of Michigan and includes IRIP's (Individual Reading Improvement Plan) for each student.

- Our Title 1 Interventionist at Miller Elementary is Emily Phillipart. Parent input is encouraged at any time.

-Playground Restoration Fund

- So far there is a raised total of \$12,000. Special thanks to the following people and companies who made special donations in October: Chad & Samantha Lyon, Metro Airport Truck, Radabaugh Financial Services, Pauline & Steven Thomas, Heather Johnson, Sarah Leonetti, Kathleen Willemse, and Sophia Jacobson.
- Quotes from 3 different Playground Equipment Companies have been presented based on the specific playground area and its dimensions. The estimated cost will be around \$135,000. This is an updated budget from the original projection of \$75,000. There is a lot of work yet to be done.
- An email from Sign-up Genius was sent to all Miller Elementary Staff and Parents and also posted on the Miller PTO Facebook page. The page details the specific tasks needing to be done and offers various ways for parents to become involved. Business owners need to be approached before the end of the 2017 year about donating to this fund. Also, Grants need to be researched and applied for.
- A Tax Exempt Letter for Miller Elementary needs to be submitted, but so far one cannot be obtained. Mrs. Gilbert has proposed this to Mr. Rowe and he offered to look into obtaining the proper documentation on the school's Tax Exemption to be given to donating companies.
- The subject of New Elementary School Playgrounds was discussed at the last School Board Meeting, with Mr. Rowe in attendance. The Board voted to donate \$52,000 total, to be split evenly between the two local elementary schools. Therefore giving \$26,000 to Miller and \$26,000 to Brown. This money will come from the District's Capital Improvement Fund for the 2017-2018 school year. This is an amendment from the previous agreement with Superintendent Naughton about the School Board matching ALL donations. The School Board has decided to put a cap on the donations they are willing to match, that cap is \$26,000. Objections were made by many in attendance tonight for this discrepancy and change. Several discussions ensued regarding the safety standards and current needs of Miller Elementary versus Brown Elementary. A motion was made by Meghan McPherson and seconded by Raeann Ramsby that the Board revisit this discussion based on the current quotes received from playground installment companies and the current state of all of the equipment needing to be replaced. The motion unanimously passed and Mr. Rowe agreed that he would inform the Board members of this information and that the subject will be revisited. The next School Board Meeting is Nov. 27th at 6:00 at Brown Elementary. The Final Strategic Planning Committee Meeting will be on November 28th. The topic will be brought up at both meetings.
- Raeann Ramsby extended a personal invitation to Mr. Rowe and the rest of the School Board Members to come to Miller Elementary and visit the Playground for themselves before the next meeting. Mr. Rowe accepted and spent 10 minutes in the playground surveying the grounds and equipment with Raeann Ramsby and Meghan McPherson.

- Meghan McPherson has spoken with District Grounds Keeper Joe Nickell about the safety of our current playground equipment and lack of mulch. The issue of safety has had increasing concerns due to 2 broken arms and one ankle so far this year. Two occurred on the Spider Web and there are several pieces of equipment that are broken but not sectioned off or posted as “Do Not Use.” Mr. Nickell states that the playground passes inspection every year, however no documentation has been provided at this time. Meghan will keep in contact with him and keep asking.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

The next PTO Meeting is scheduled for Monday Dec. 11 at 9:00 am in the Teachers Lounge.

Attendees:

Raeann Ramsby- PTO President

Shawn Petty- PTO Vice President

Holly Bank- PTO Treasurer

Selena Erickson- PTO Secretary

Meghan McPherson- PTO Co-Treasurer and Playground Committee Chair

Jodi Stasik- PTO Volunteer Coordinator

Donovan Rowe- Huron High School Principle and incoming Huron School District Superintendent

Jean Gilbert- Miller Elementary Principle

Erin Skamiera

Amy Hinks

Jennifer Lyp

Megan Brewer- Miller Teacher

Jennifer Lemerand- Miller Teacher

Lynn Doyle-Curl –Miller Teacher

Katey Gutierrez- Miller Teacher

Megan Mrowca- Miller Teacher