

HPTO General Meeting Minutes – Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7pm

Attendees: Heather Fiedler, Alison Persichetti, Amanda Kovach, Kristin Matthews, Dana Fortun, Sarah McNaughton, Andrea Krushinski, Danielle Bradley, Charity Branscum, Lisa Hnatow, Rachel Fischbaugh, McKay Shelkey-Bray, Bill Sparks, Lynne Shurina, Karina Chavez, Carrie Classen, Nikki Rosswog, Paula Grimsley, Sara McMahon, Ashley Marutiak, Beth Vukmir, Christine Geller

- I. Welcome and Opening comments- Heather Fiedler welcomed and thanked the attendees present.
- II. Treasurer's report- Alison Persichetti gave updated financials detailing actuals versus budget. At this point, everything is occurring as expected in the budget.
- III. Events and activities-

Recaps:

- **Holiday Parties:** Alison Persichetti thanked all volunteers. She reported that there will be grade level coordinators for the Valentine's Day parties. They will reach out to homeroom parents for volunteers as well as for crafts and games. There will be 4 volunteers rather than 3 for the Valentine's Day party. The parties will be held on Monday, February 13.

Upcoming:

- **Magnificent Mondays:** Sarah McNaughton shared that we reduced the number of classes as one of the many changes this year. We have 134 students participating and they all paid on PayPal as of December 23. She was congratulated by Mrs. Fischbaugh and those in attendance for her organization and for the new procedures in place. She is rethinking the dismissal procedure for the next class and will remind parents to send in a healthy snack. Sarah reported that we made approximately \$2,300 and received 2 free assemblies from Mad Science as a result of this program.
- **Adult Night Out:** Lynne Shurina reported that the fundraiser will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Indiana Township Community Center. It will be called "Hartwood Presents Vegas Nights". The event is BYOB and will be open to all friends and family. She plans to do online signups and hopes to have them ready by February 1. Lynne was able to secure a DJ for the event, free of charge. Some games include Black Jack, Poker, Roulette, 50/50 raffle, etc. Attendees will purchase chips. The chips will be cashed in for tickets to put in Chinese auction baskets. ***If anyone has any basket ideas or any extra baskets to donate, please contact Lynne Shurina.***

IV. Fundraising-

Recaps:

- **Spirit Sale:** Andrea Krushinski reported that we had 67 orders and made a profit of approximately \$900. She was able to sell a few extra items at the meeting tonight and will post more items on Facebook for sale. It'll be first come, first served. The PTO may plan to donate some of the items for a gift basket for the Adult Night Out.
- **Penguin Patch:** Heather reported that this fundraiser made a profit of \$956. She also shared that the board and the Penguin Patch committee has tossed around the idea of going "in house" and shopping sales year round instead of using the current company for their items. It was agreed that we could get a better selection, better ideas, and it would be less expensive if we did it this way. It was suggested that we do this in combination with handmade items and crafts by local vendors.

Upcoming:

- **Dine and Donate- Gators:** Kristin Matthews reported that Hartwood is doing 3 events at Gators in January, February and March (January 11, February 8, and March 8). Gators will donate 20% of the total sales to the HPTO. Participants can dine-in or take-out their meals and they do not need a flyer. Diners just need to mention the Hartwood PTO to the wait staff. Flyers went home in backpacks on Monday, January 9.
- **Gift Baskets:** Heather Fiedler reported that the Annual Gift Baskets will be displayed on March 9 at the Art Show. Attendees were reminded to use address labels or name labels when purchasing tickets to make it easier for the kids. Students can also purchase tickets during lunches on February 23 and February 24 lunches.
- **Family Fun Night:** Charity Branscum shared that this night will take place on Friday, March 17, 2017 and that it will be tied to the Penny Wars fundraiser. The class that wins the Penny Wars contest will get to pick the movie for this event. A pre-approved list will be provided for the class to choose from. This event will be a very low cost night. There will be a popcorn machine, water, and glow sticks for free. At a low cost, there will be candy to buy for a dime/quarter. Families can bring blankets and wear PJs.
- **Penny Wars:** Carla O'Brien will chair this event. Kids bring in pennies for points. The grade that gets the most points wins. Students can take away from the other grade levels by putting in larger coins/dollars. The winner will pick the movie for Family Movie Night and will also get another non-food related prize. We still need to work out logistics, such as the length of time for the contest.

- **Yearbook:** Heather Fiedler reported that Lifetouch will do our Yearbook again. Yearbook Club works on putting together the yearbook and voted on the cover. The theme is “All in a Year”. Soft cover yearbooks are \$15 and hardcover yearbooks are \$20. You can purchase them online or use the paper order form that will be provided. If anyone is handy and wants to volunteer to help with the Yearbook (especially Fifth Grade parents), feel free to contact Heather. Yearbooks come out on Field Day. If anyone is in a position where they can’t purchase a yearbook, please talk to Heather or Mrs. Fazzini.

On Going:

- **Box Tops:** Danielle Bradley shared an update on grade level totals/yearly goal (refer to flyer sent home on Monday, January 9). We received a check for \$1,002.50. The winner of the school-wide Box Top contest is the 1st Grade. They won a PJ day on January 31, 2017. She asked for ideas for the EOY reward in addition to extra recess. Some ideas are a coupon for Emmerling or a small trinket. Danielle thanked all families who send them BoxTops.
- **Shoparoo** – Danielle reported that we have 49 supporters and it looks like we are at about \$80-\$90.
- **Labels for Education** – Danielle sent in 1,372 labels. If all are accepted, we will have 8,830 points. We need 9,000 for a \$100 gift card, which is good for 1 year. This program ends in August.
- **Giant Eagle Apples for the Students** - Checks are issued once a year and are received in May. We have 621 points so far and 404 supporters. Our school code is 0432. Register to begin earning for Hartwood.
- **Outdoor Recess Supplies** – Danielle reported that the recess cart is destroyed and all materials are gone. We have more items in the PTO closet but we want to wait for a new system because the kids are not being respectful of the supplies. Danielle reported that she will check them every month and replenish with a few items. She and Mrs. Fischbaugh had a meeting, and Danielle shared that she is going to try and implement a new system in hopes that the children will be more responsible with the recess supplies. Some ideas include: to buy a heavy duty bin (with wheels) for each grade. Label bins and inventory the supplies so that they know what is in each. Each grade will be responsible for taking care of their supplies and cleaning them up at the end of recess. Or possibly have teachers assign one child from each section per week to be in charge of clean up each day. Danielle plans to use the balls we have and label them for each grade. She is

open to any ideas or suggestions. Mesh bags to carry recess supplies instead of carts was an idea that brought up.

- **Buddy Bench** - Mrs. Fischbaugh has received student requests for a 'Buddy Bench' for Hartwood. If a child is sitting on it, other children are to go and ask them to play. She is going to contact the high school and try to get one or two for our recess areas.
- **TAG** - Danielle updated the TAG flyer and will be sending it to the copy center for distribution at the end of January for the February TAG month. The last TAG month is in April. She thanked those who have volunteered!
- **Framed Artwork in the Library** - There are about 18 framed prints that belong to the PTO and were used for TAG prior to the Power Point presentations. Mrs. Fischbaugh has indicated that there is not enough wall space at Hartwood for them and that we need to find something to do with them, as that room is used during testing weeks. Danielle is looking for ideas on where they could be donated or what we can do with them.
- **District Forum** – The next meeting topic is technology in the district. It will be held on February 14th at 9:00 a.m. in the LGI room at the high school.

V. Mrs. Fischbaugh reported that she is in the process of trying to find a 4th grade leave replacement while Mrs. Rea is on maternity leave. She is currently doing observations at other schools and is carefully evaluating candidates who would be a valuable addition to our strong teaching staff at Hartwood.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives to attend and contribute to our meeting that benefits the amazing children and staff at Hartwood Elementary. Our programs would not be possible without your support and involvement. Please visit our website www.hartwoodpto.org and our Facebook page @fchartwoodpto throughout the year for more information.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Kovach - HPTO Secretary