

Howe PTA
February Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2016

Call to order: 7:03 PM

Approval of Minutes: November minutes approved

Treasurer's Report

Ending balance is as follows:

- As of 11/30/15 \$24,949.05
- As of 12/31/15 \$24,256.22
- As of 1/29/16 \$24,602.85

Nikki is getting ready to do the budget for next year; individuals and/or committees should submit their budget requests.

Correspondence:

Exec Board/Principal's Report from Dr. Murray:

- A big thank you to Joyce for the lunch clubs.
- Reminder: Be mindful of the Go Zone. Please add to the newsletter. A parent got irate with Kathy (crossing guard), when she told them they couldn't park in the teacher lot.
- Students to Students fundraiser: A community service project providing school supplies to needy students. Student council is collecting money daily.
- Feedback requested regarding the new standard-based report card. The feedback received so far has been positive.

Committee Reports:

- Lunch clubs: Joyce Divine. We have received great participation. Some of the clubs include yoga, science, Create Shop and chess.

- **Scholastic Book Orders: Heather Chew.** There is one account in Dr. Murray's name. All orders acquired in school office. Heather places an order once a month.
- **4th and 5th grade Spelling Bee: Padma Whitson and Jenny Frink.** 14 kids participated. Padma Whitman's daughter won the spelling bee. Two chairs are leaving after this year; they have found replacements.
- **Wendy Liberty: Box Tops.** We raised \$1,700 from the first collection. \$1,800 was the goal for Corporate Rewards. There is a new form on the PTA website to include with the box tops.
- **Nominating Committee: Diane DeCarlucci, Jen Larence, Amy McFarland.**
The new PTA board has been selected by the Nominating Committee:

Joyce Divine, President
 Carla Clipper, 1st Vice President
 Arwen Eger, 2nd Vice President
 Nikki McBride, Treasurer
 Emily Weber, Recording Secretary
 Heather Baker, Corresponding Secretary
 Melissa Jones, Historian

The slate of officers will sit for 30 days; new board starts in May. Bylaws and slate of new officers will be voted on at next meeting.

New Business:

- A request has been made to purchase items for the 2nd grade Listening Center. Request is for \$236.69 (\$250 total budget) which includes 3 CD players, 3 splitters and some books on CD.
 - First motion Arwen, 2nd motion Joyce. Motion approved.
- The 4th graders were personally invited by the Pirates to participate in Education Day at PNC Park, starting at 9a.
 - Education Day includes an interactive treasure hunt, weather day presentation + weather station and attendance at a Pirates game.
 - Mrs. Hughes is requesting the PTA pay \$400 for the bus ride home. The school won't allow the bus to pick the kids up after 3:30 PM.

1st motion: Arwen, 2nd motion: Nikki. Motion approved.

- Revisions to the bylaws were made. Revisions will be passed out at the March PTA meeting.

- Steve Baker (Snider and Associates) gave a presentation on renovating the kindergarten playground. He renovated the playground at Foster Elementary School.
 - PTA supports the playground renovation. There is no money at the district level.

 - Steve passed out layouts of the proposed equipment. The estimated cost for the equipment is \$18,000 - \$19,000, plus the cost of the turf.

 - He suggested turf as the surface. Maintenance is minimal. Time frame is 3 days to take out the old mulch. 2 or 3 days to install. Three times a year the manufacturer offers a discount.

 - The equipment can be bought on the state contract to receive a discount.

 - He will put together a more formal proposal. Stephanie suggested taking the extra mulch and using it for the swing set area down below the playground.

 - There is grant money available. Matt Smith approved grant money for the Foster playground.

 - Stephanie is forming a fundraising committee. Some suggestions for fundraisers included a house tour, plant sale and a garage sale.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:19 PM

Next PTA meeting: March 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM