

Auburn Elementary PTO Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2018

Attendance:

Ashley Nowak and Amanda VanTol (PTO Co-Coordinators), Elizabeth Garchow (PTO Co-Coordinator and Secretary), Nicole Kingsbury (PTO Co-Coordinator and Treasurer), Stephen Sevener (Principal), Diana Samborn, Sarah Kemmer and Julee Dillon (Teachers) and 4 parents.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and attendee introductions.

Guest Speaker Presentation:

Charlie Cosen, owner and operator of Cosen's MMA, a martial arts academy that focuses on using martial arts to teach important life skills, presented an opportunity to offer an after-school MMA class at Auburn Elementary. This is a 4 week class, with a special graduation ceremony taking place at Cosen's MMA in Bay City after the session's completion. After graduating, Cosens will offer an "Auburn Elementary incentive" toward registration for additional classes at their academy. Classes are held once a week, for 30 minutes, immediately after school. The cost is \$39 per student, which includes the uniform. 100% of the proceeds are donated to our school. All flyers, consultation forms and permission slips are provided by Cosens. There is a 24 student max. The opportunity for a second session is possible if the demand is high enough. For these sessions, all ages are in the same class together. A class of less than 15 will have one instructor, while 15 or higher will result in an additional instructor being brought in. Cosens uses martial arts to help students learn the importance of life-skills, such as focus, control, balance, teamwork and discipline. Their focus is to help students develop habits essential to success in life. PTO attendees felt this would be an extremely beneficial program to provide to students.

- Classes will be held on Tuesdays- February 27, March 6, 20, and 27 from 3:45-4:15p.m.

Secretary's Report:

Meeting minutes from the November, 2017, PTO meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the report by Buffman and was seconded by Kemmer.

Treasurer's Report:

Kingsbury reviewed budget transactions and updates since the November 2017 meeting. A motion to approve the report was made by Kemmer and was seconded by Buffman.

- Discontinuing the Scrip program was discussed. Due to the decrease in the number of cards being ordered, and the amount it costs for shipping for each order, the school is now losing money with the program. PTO Leadership tried some other options to try to fix this, but we have decided that it is time to close the program. This change is effective immediately.

- A parent suggested “Shop-a-Roo” as a replacement. We will be looking further into this.

Principal’s Report:

- Thank you parents for your help and understanding during last Wednesday’s closure. This closure was due to, yet, another water main break in Auburn, as was the “maintenance issue” the following day. This has become a somewhat frequent problem and backup plans have been developed for such events. The original plan was to bring our students down to Western High School for the remainder of the day, if staying at Auburn Elementary is not an option. This time, with Western losing water as well, it forced us to develop another plan, this being bussing our students to McAlear-Sawden Elementary for the remainder of the day. With such a responsive school community and parents willingness to be flexible by picking up students early, we only had 25 students who had to be bussed to McAlear-Sawden. By dismissal time at McAlear-Sawden, only 12 students were left to be bussed home after school. We have a great group of parents at Auburn Elementary. Thank you again for showing just how wonderful you are.
- We will have Wacky Winter Wednesdays in February again this year.
 - Whiteout day
 - Crazy hair/hat day
 - Pj day
 - Sunglasses/hat day
- Next week students will begin the winter NWEA testing. Students will be preparing for and practicing taking the test this week, to help remind them how the on-line test format works. Information on your child’s performance will be available at parent-teacher conferences in March. Any questions about the assessment should be directed to your child’s classroom teacher.
- Our annual magazine fundraiser will begin next week. This is an office fundraiser, helping to raise money for miscellaneous items. New subscriptions can be made, as well as renewing already existing subscriptions. Information and order packets will come home Tuesday, January, 16th.
- The variety show is coming up in March. We are in need of a parent or parents to take over the planning and coordinating of the show starting next year, as our current show coordinators will be moving on to the middle school with their children. If you are interested, please inform the office or email auburnpto@bcschools.net.
- Our main fundraising focus this year continues to be the outdoor classroom area. Planning for this is ongoing with staff input. A contractor (used for Kolb Elementary’s structure) has been consulted for the pergola design work.

Coordinators’ Report:

- Our first *Presents for Pediatrics* drive was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated toys and/or stuffed animals. And a huge thank you to our local businesses who helped with the collection; United Financial of Auburn, ADIO Chiropractic of Midland and the Auburn Library. With all of the donations collected here, including those made for the movie night, and those collected at our

businesses, we ended up with 2 truck loads of donations! Deliveries were made at the beginning of Winter break and the pediatric care units were blown away with the donations.

- Our Hungry Howies fundraiser is done. We sold 100 cards, earning the school 5 free pizzas! Any student who sold 10 or more cards earned free pizza as well. Pizza certificates will be sent home soon.
- We have sold a total of 126 smart cards at this time; 63 cards sold since our last PTO meeting in November and well above the total number sold last year.
- Our second door-decorating challenge was held before Winter break. The theme this time was “Winter Wonderland”. Awards were given to Ms. Pavlawk’s Kindergarten class for Most Spectacular Snowflakes, Mrs. Green’s 2nd grade class for their Crafty Candy Canes, and Mr. Leasure’s 5th grade and Mrs. Samborn’s 1st grade classes tied for Most Creative. Well done everyone!
- The annual holiday shopping spree was very well received again this year, with about 80% of our students participating. Thank you to Alyson McCloy who donated goods for the PTO to sell at our table, and to Laura Hill and Misty Shaver for “manning” the table during the school day. The PTO table earned \$84.
- Our second annual “drop-n-shop” movie night was successful again this year. The movie shown was Willy Wonka. In keeping with the candy theme we added a candy sale this year. Extra popcorn was available for purchase too. Parents were given the option to donate a toy or stuffed animal to our Presents for Pediatrics in lieu of paying the \$5 admission. We earned approximately \$200.
- Color Run registration is official open. More information will be coming, but a link for registration can be found on Auburn Elementary’s Facebook page. Remember to create your student’s donation page and have your student’s friends and family members register under that page specifically.
 - The Color Run kickoff assembly will be Friday, March 2, 2018.
 - This is a joint event with McAlear-Sawden and Mackensen Elementaries.
 - If you own, or know someone who owns, a business, we are looking for sponsors. There are 3 tiers:
 - Bronze- \$150: name on official race shirts and 1 free registration.
 - Silver- \$200: bronze level, plus one advertising banner along the race route.
 - Gold- \$250: silver level, plus an additional free registration.
 - All sponsor levels will be advertised on the school’s registration website.
 - We had 460 participants last year and look to increase those numbers significantly this year.
 - Our t-shirt design competition will take place soon. This year, one winner will be picked from each school and the 3 designs will all go on the front of the shirts.
 - The BOGO registration deal is a point of confusion for many trying to register their families, therefore a special sheet of instructions for that will be included in the informational packet that will come home with students.
- Friday, January 19th is our annual PTO pool party from 6-8p.m. at the Midland Community Center.

- We will have a PTO fun day during school this day. Make a donation, big or small- the amount does not matter, and you can wear your beachwear all day!
- Fun Fair is a huge event involving many hours of planning and coordination. We will be creating a Fun Fair planning meeting very soon. This will be for those interested in game ideas, donation gathering and putting together donation baskets, menu planning, etc. Watch for a sign-up genius email to come soon.

New Business:

- Many have asked if we would be doing Qdoba again. When we approached Qdoba at the beginning of the school year, we were told to contact them after the first of the year. We will be contacting them about starting another fundraiser with them soon.
- We are in need of new PTO Coordinators. 2 of our 4 Coordinators will be leaving the board at the end of this school year. Responsibilities include the day-to-day details, hand-on coordinating of events, planning and behind the scenes work. Detailed work processes for every event throughout the school year has been documented to help with the transition. If you are interested, please email auburnpto@bcschools.net.
- We are at a crossroads with the Accelerated Reader program. Money from the Fall Fundraiser is set aside (\$2,000.00) to pay for AR. In the past, the district has paid the \$800 hosting fee for each building and the buildings paid the subscription fee. This cost was transferred to buildings two years ago. AR has also increased the subscription cost per student over each of the past 5 years. Our total cost for AR for 2018-19 is \$2200 for roughly 240 licenses minimum. The 4th and 5th grade classrooms are currently using AR. Conversations are taking place with teachers regarding the benefits of the program vs the increased cost vs. other options. At this time AR cannot be purchased for 18-19 without additional funding.
- A parent presented ideas to consider with our holiday student shopping spree format. The suggested ideas included Auburn Elementary coordinating the event; identifying vendors, charging a per table fee to participate, etc. This proposal is inspired by the bazaar she helped coordinate at a Midland school in which they earned over \$1000. This will be a topic for further discussion; an additional bazaar?

Old Business:

- One fundraising focus this school year is an outdoor classroom area. The K & 1 Chromebook cart is old and the Chromebooks are failing. We will need to balance the construction of the outdoor classroom with replacement of Chromebooks for that cart.

Our next PTO meeting will be **Monday, March 5, 2018**. Child care will be provided by the Bay Arenac ISD Early Learning Development class.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07.