

# **Auburn Elementary PTO Minutes**

Monday, November 6, 2017

## **Attendance**

Ashley Nowak and Amanda VanTol (PTO Co-Coordinators), Elizabeth Garchow (PTO Co-Coordinator and Secretary), Stephen Sevener (Principal), Sarah Kemmer and Julee Dillon (Teachers) and 3 parents.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Secretary's Report**

Meeting minutes from September, 2017 were reviewed and approved. A motion was made to approve the report by J. Dillon and was seconded by S. Kemmer.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Nicole Kingsbury was not in attendance, therefore Nowak reviewed budget transactions and updates since September 2017. A motion to approve the report was made by A. VanTol and was seconded by Ken Krause.

## **Principal's Report**

- An email went home earlier this week regarding our Stack Up, Stock Up event happening Thursday, 11/9. With help from our 500+ stackers at Auburn Elementary School, a new world record will hopefully be set as part of the 2017 STACK UP! According to the World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA), this year's event should exceed all expectations and break the Guinness World Record set in 2016 of 622,809 cups stacked. All stackers are required to be engaged in sport stacking and fitness activities for at least 30 minutes on November 9th. Many schools also "stacked up for a good cause" combining their event with a local charity. Auburn Elementary has chosen to STACK UP! for a good cause that will benefit our school communities by collecting food items in the school lobby. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Eleazer at (989)662-4921 ext. 2118 or [eleazerj@bcschools.net](mailto:eleazerj@bcschools.net).
- Wednesday, November 21, 2017 is a half day. It will be the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester and the start of our Thanksgiving break. Dismissal will be at 12:24 pm. Every student will be served lunch before going home.
- December 20, 2017 is this year's Holiday Program. Mrs. V. is working hard to get students ready for their musical performance. We will have 2 performances, and each grade will perform in both. The show times will be 9:15 and 1:45. We are asking that families pick just one of the performances to attend this year, as last year we ran out of room and had families who had to stand in the lobby through the program. We are limited on both parking availability as well as seating in the gym and want every family member to have the opportunity to come enjoy this wonderful program your students and teachers have put such hard work into. We appreciate your help and consideration with this effort.
- As was discussed at the last PTO meeting, due to budget reductions, Auburn Elementary lost the Intervention teacher position this year. This created a

challenge with the use of the Learning Lab as a resource for student literacy support. The Learning Lab was very beneficial to students struggling and needing additional, small group, help and we have been exploring our options to find an alternative approach. Staff has taken the lead to try to maintain the Learning Lab and LLI program and have revived the Learning Lab with available staff resources, focused on students needing small group intervention using LLI materials. The K, 1, 3 & 4 grade level teachers have developed a plan in which one grade level teacher takes the students in that grade level needing help down to the lab for Tier 2 instruction, while the remaining grade level teachers take that teacher's students into their classroom for additional instruction based on learning needs. This takes place each day for 30 minutes. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team has a different plan due to the number of sections this year which makes it difficult for them to access the lab. The PTO applauds our K, 1, 3, 4 & 5 grade level teachers for working together to make this possible; allowing students to continue benefit from the LLI program.

### **Coordinators' Report**

- This year's Fall Fundraiser is nearly complete, with only a handful of families still needing to turn in payments. We thank you for making this year's fundraiser another great success.
  - The limo lunch prize will take place December 18, 2017. Permission slips and further information will be sent home to those students who earned this prize in the coming weeks.
  - The prize assembly will take place December 18, 2017 as well.
- We tried a new fundraising alternative to the annual fall bake sale this year. Due to the difficulty of finding parent volunteers to prepare for and run the bake sale, we needed to find something that did not require any volunteers to run. This is where the PTO Fun Days came in. We came across several schools who have these days throughout the year, and decided we would try it. As with any new venture, there are bound to be some hiccups and confusion. We did not intend for the new Fun Days to replace the annual Fun Fall Fridays we usually have. Unfortunately, due to some misunderstood communication and overlooked details, that is what happened. We will be doing PTO Fun Days periodically throughout the year; not more than one time in a month. We'll try new and exciting themes. Stay tuned!
  - We will be replacing the spring bake sale as well with a March Money Madness competition. This will be a grade level "penny war" type competition. More information will come home closer to the event.
- This year's Harvest party was another great success. Thank you to all who joined us for this fun night of dancing. We sold our glow items again, trying something new with the glow-bones, and we sold them all! Thank you especially to our wonderful volunteers for all their time and help decorating and running the dance. You are much appreciated.
- The first PTO Door Decorating Challenge took place just before Halloween. This was a challenge posed by the PTO to the entire school to decorate their classroom doors with a fall theme of their choosing. The rules were only that they must be student idea generated and created - no parent or teacher help (aside from the

most basic help from teachers.) They were given 3 categories to try to achieve the award for Spookiest Door, Best Use of a Pumpkin and Most Colorful Door. Mrs. Retzloff's (long-term subbing for Mrs. Martin) 4th grade won Most Colorful Door. Mrs. Markey's kindergarten won Spookiest Door and Mrs. Zieroff's kindergarten won Best Use of a Pumpkin. A surprise award was given to Mrs. Danek's 4th grade for Most Creative Door. More challenges will take place throughout the year.

- Our newest project began last week. We decided we wanted to do something to give back to the community this year, so we initiated the Presents for Pediatrics project. We have partnered up with United Financial and ADIO Chiropractic, with Auburn Library recently joining the cause, to collect toys and stuffed animals for our pediatric patients stuck in the hospital over the holidays. We will be delivering these gifts to Mid-Michigan Medical Center of Midland, St. Mary's of Saginaw, and Covenant Hospital of Saginaw on December 22, 2017. Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy or stuffed animal for a special child needing some cheer this holiday season. Drop off locations are in the lobby areas of Auburn Elementary, United Financial of Auburn, ADIO Chiropractic of Midland and the Bay County Library in Auburn, until December 15, 2017.
- Parents attending the September PTO meeting voted to try a new Scentsy fundraiser this year. One of our school moms, Rachel Buffman, is a Scentsy consultant and is spearheading this event. We will be selling scent disks. The fundraiser begins Monday, November 13, 2017. Watch for information and order forms to come home soon!
- The annual Holiday Shopping Spree is coming up on Friday, December 1, 2017. Information will come home soon. A reminder that parents are not allowed to attend for any reason during the school day but will be open for parent or the community for one hour after school; until 4:30p.
- Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback from last year's first Drop and Shop movie night, we have decided to do it once again this year, on Friday, December 15, 2017. The fee will be \$5 or a donation for the Presents for Pediatrics drive, and pays for your movie as well as one cup of pop and a bag of popcorn. This is an opportunity for parents to drop off the kiddos and make that last minute holiday shopping trip before the kids are all home on break. This year we will be showing the original "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and we already have some great ideas brewing for fun decorations! More information will be coming home in the near future.
- We have Hungry Howie's coupon cards on sale right now. Each card is \$10 and has 5 coupons. Coupons are only valid on pick up orders, but are a great deal. These cards will only be available through the beginning of December though, so make sure to place your order soon! Forms are available in the school office.
- **SAVE THE DATE!**
  - Annual pool party- January 19
  - Fun Fair- March 2
  - Color Run- April 14
    - Kickoff will be held on Friday, March 2, 2017.
    - This year's event will be a 3-school event! Watch for more information after the start of the year.

## New Business

- Every year we pick one main area to focus our fundraising efforts towards. Last year it was technology; this year we are working on funding an outdoor classroom area. This will be an area outside where teachers can take their students for instruction. While plans are still underway, many ideas have been tossed around, including those from our teachers. Our plan is to begin by focusing on the seating and pergola to provide shade. We had a parent suggest bringing in experienced parents to help with the building and designing portion of the project. If you have knowledge and experience and feel you could help with this project, please email the PTO at [auburnpto@bcschools.net](mailto:auburnpto@bcschools.net)
- Ken Krause, a former parent at Auburn Elementary, presented a Child ID program his business offers. This program provides an electronic record of your child, including a full set of electronic fingerprints and current photo, as well as current stats, all on a CD for you to take home for use in the event of an emergency. They offer this service for free and do everything on-site, in your presence. The PTO is working with Ken to arrange time at an event for this to take place.
- We asked our teachers present for a “teacher’s report” (putting them on the spot of course), asking if they had any requests, suggestions, or otherwise noteworthy information for us.
  - They wished to thank the PTO and parents who helped in purchasing all the new technology for the classrooms. The grade level Chromebook carts are being used daily. We still need to complete Chromebook carts for 1<sup>st</sup> and Kindergarten.
  - The question was posed as to if and when the next door challenge would take place. The start of the challenge themed “Winter Wonderland” will begin December 1, 2017, with the judging taking place just before winter break. Again, this is a winter theme, not a specific holiday, so the decorations can stay up longer.

Our next PTO meeting will be **Monday, January 8, 2017**. Child care will be provided by the Bay Arenac ISD Early Learning Development class.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42p.m.