

CHIPPEWA PTO MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

6:15 p.m.

Cafeteria

IN ATTENDANCE: Leah Kimmelman, Lori Prim, Barb Grooms, Becky Fowler, LaKeisha King, Jamee Atwood, Lupe Brueck, Brooke Dankowski, Helga Liller, Deb Bux, Dana Johnson, Sally Martin-Ranft, Kathy Ryan, Carol Scholler

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. The meeting minutes were approved.

HANDOUTS: Meeting agenda, current budget, calendar for 2011/2012, date summary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Leah Kimmelman:

- School improvements are just about done. We are working out tweaks with the air conditioning. We are eager to show off the school to everybody next week at Open House.
- Chippewa is officially a Title I school. The state designates schools with 40% of students at or below poverty level. Last Fall, 39.1% met that criteria. We are absolutely over 40% and will go higher if the economy doesn't get better. The school will be engaged in targeted assistance reading recovery, in selected populations, while next year it will be a school wide effort. We are working hard to get Title I programming up and running this year. Title I schools receive federal money, not local tax payer money.
- NCLB expired 3 years ago. There has been discussion for Congress to re-authorize it. Next year the NCLB expectation of meeting or exceeding state testing standards is 92%, unless changes are made.
- Monday, October 17th, Dr. Kimmelman will present at the board meeting. LEAP students did not make the annual testing target in math expectations. Staff is really working hard to make sure we are providing the best education. Common Core Standards (.org) have been adopted in the state of Illinois, and District 62 is aligning them with District 207 to ensure K-12 continuity. Check out the new standards at commoncorestandards.org. Learning standards will be much more rigorous than in the past, considering the revisions. All tests will be computerized. Other standardized testing, specific to Illinois, will be eliminated by 2014. New tests that will align with the federal Common Core Standards will be used.
- This year Parent/Teacher Conferences will be student-lead conferences.
- Enrollment is currently at 644.
- Follow us on twitter @Chippewa62.

TEACHER REPRESENTATION: Eighth Grade: Helga Liller, Brooke Dankowski

- Since we have done away with teams at each grade level, this year is the first time the entire 8th grade staff has really worked together as a team. We are enjoying the 8th grade. It is providing new challenges. The year is up and running.
- Map testing is going on now.

- If anyone needs National Junior Honor Society student volunteers, let our team know a few weeks ahead of time. We can provide a sign up sheet. Students cannot volunteer during school hours.

PRESIDENTS' REPORT: Lori Prim/Barb Grooms:

- We currently have 314 email addresses for families who registered with the PTO at registration.
- Currently, 38 staff members are registered PTO members.
- So far we have \$1000 in membership dues. The dues and fundraisers help pay for field trips, activities, the 8th Grade Dance, Cultural Arts assemblies, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, and school gifts.
- PTO committees that always need volunteers include Taffy Apple Sales, Book Fair, Bake Sales, Restaurant of the Month, Bowling Bash, the 8th Grade Dance, and Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.
- We have set aside money and have plans to purchase a new stage curtain. We are purchasing the curtain at cost for \$2,500. The curtain will be installed later this Fall with a dedication to follow.
- Mindy Ward's board policy on fundraising indicates no more than 3 fundraisers per year.
- Motions were made to vote Becky Fowler and LaKeisha King into the offices of Co-Vice President and were approved.
- A motion was made to vote Lupe Brueck into the office of Treasurer and was approved.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Becky Fowler/LaKeisha King:

- The American Heart Association is sponsoring a Play 60 Challenge in cooperation with the Chicago Bears. Their goal is to get kids active. Kids will track their activity with points. A Chicago Bear will visit the school of the students who have the most activity points.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lupe Brueck:

- Balance as of August 1, 2011 = \$3226.65.
- One \$1,150 deposit was made.
- Checks in the amount of \$430.74 were paid.
- As of Sept. 31, 2011 we have \$3945.91, and that is after paying for the stage curtain.

TAFFY APPLES: Barb Grooms:

- Taffy Apple Sales start Friday, September 23rd.
- Order Forms are due October 14th.
- Delivery to the school will be October 26th. Volunteers are needed to help organize and pass out the apples to homerooms in the evening. This would be a great time for students to receive service hours.

BOOK FAIR: Barb Grooms:

- The Fall Book Fair is set for November 16th-22nd during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

- The Spring date is set for May 7th-10th.
- Rather than receive money from the sale of books, Chippewa receives books for our library.
- Volunteers are needed.

BAKE SALE:

- We need a chairperson to find captains for each event.
- We are looking into having bake sales at sporting events and/or concerts.

SPIRIT WEAR: Jamee Atwood:

- Spirit Wear order forms will be going home October 14th and will be due back at school November 4th.
- Delivery of Spirit Wear will take place before winter break.
- Pictures of items for purchase are at chippewapto.org.
- It has not been decided if there will be a sale in Spring.

BOWLING BASH: Barb Grooms:

- Bowling Bash date is set for March 18, 2012. Times TBA.
- First planning meeting will be held October 12th at 6:30 pm. at Barb Groom's house, 311 Cornell. All are welcome.
- A donation letter will be sent home December 9th.
- Last year \$4,200 was made at this event.

RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH:

- We are looking for a coordinator.
- The committee involves getting contacts and setting dates.

ORNAMENT DECORATING:

- Decorating the Chippewa tree in Metropolitan Square will take place the first week of December.
- Ornament making will take place in November. All students are welcome to make an ornament.

EIGHTH GRADE DANCE:

- Date is set for May 18, 2012.
- Ticket order forms will go home April 27th and will be due May 11th.
- Keepsake invitations will go home May 7th.

BEAUTIFICATION:

- A coordinator is needed.
- We need to plant now for Spring.
- We are looking to plant flowers on either side of the Chippewa sign to emphasize the main entrance.
- Dr. Kimmelman applied for the Whole Foods Garden Grant for our school.
- Mrs. Herigodt heads the Pond Club which cares for the pond life in the courtyard.

CULTURAL ARTS: Barb Grooms:

- A PBIS assembly was held on the half day of school, September, 13th.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

- The chippewapto.org website now uses Google Calendar to stay organized.
- There is a list of extra curricular activities on the district website (d62.org). It is now up and running. Hit the activities tab to access the forms.
- The student newspaper is now going online at d62.org. No more paper versions.
- We are starting to collect Coke bottle caps. Please bring clean Coke bottle caps in a baggie to the office. Money received for collecting the bottle caps will benefit our school.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 6:15 p.m in the cafeteria. All are welcome. Help get more parents involved. Bring another parent with you to the meeting!