



**NORTH DAVIS ELEMENTARY**  
PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 19, 2017, 7:00PM  
NDE MPR

**Meeting called to order at 7:06pm.**

- **Welcome and Introductions**

**In attendance: Sarah Roseen, Sarah Eich, Camille Stephenson, Bobbi Avery, Brenna Hughes, Andrea Luttringer, Karen Fingerman, Jennifer Aguilar, Greg Ott, Peng Ji, Barbara Linke, Kristen Gong, Fred Kizito, Milly Kizito, Kerry MacKay.**

- **Approve Agenda**

**Bobbi motioned to approve the agenda. Brenna seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

- **Approve Minutes**

**Sarah Roseen motioned to approve the minutes. Karen seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

- **Budget Update**

- **We only have one fundraiser left, the Jog-a-thon, and we should have plenty of money to make what we are projecting to spend.**
- **Fidget Budget to "Touch of Understanding"**

**In the spring, the PTA gave \$500 per grade level to support spending on fidgets, flexible seating, and other tools that assist students who struggle with attention. After teachers have purchased what they needed for their classrooms there is a good portion of that money left over. The amount is unknown as of now because a couple people are finishing up their orders.**

**The recommendation of the PTA Executive Board is to reallocate this money to help pay for the "Touch of Understanding" assemblies that are scheduled to take place in early January. The "Touch of Understanding" assembly is put on by a group that comes to our school and helps students experience what it is like to have a physical disability. The goal is to build empathy. Several schools across the district have had their PTA fund the program yearly.**

**During the three hour experience, students learn to read and write Braille, and meet someone who is blind. Students also learn how to use a wheelchair. This year, the 5th graders will participate when the 6th graders are away at Walker Creek. The 6th graders will have an assembly too upon their return. In the future, we will plan to have an assembly in the 2nd and 5th grades.**

Bobbi called for a vote to reallocate the money to the “Touch of Understanding” assemblies. All in favor. None opposed.

- **Auction/ Raffle Money Discussion & Vote**

Sarah Eich explained that at the auction, the “raise your paddle” item to fund Chromebooks brought in about \$500. The raffle ticket sales made roughly \$10,000, however no decision has been made about where that raffle money would go.

Sarah called attention to the highlighted line item on the budget detailing the proposed money. Sarah Roseen shared that one cart full of 32 Chromebooks costs between \$15,000-16,000. She noted that if we combine the raffle money with the money already dedicated to Chromebooks, we may be able to buy one more cart.

Bobbi presented a vote to dedicate the raffle funds to Chromebooks. All in favor. None opposed.

There was a question raised about what the Chromebooks are used for and how they are allocated. Sarah Eich, Sarah Roseen, and Karen Fingerman, explained that they are used in a variety of ways to support Benchmark Advance, the ELA curriculum, Moby Max, a math program, ELD, research projects, writing, science, typing, and many other activities. Karen also added that the more Chromebooks they have, the more they’ll be utilized.

- **Other News**

- Bobbi announced that the auction made around \$50,000 this year. The group of parents that organize the event will be moving on, so we need some other volunteers to take this on.

- Karen Fingerman asked about the Jog-a-thon date. Bobbi mentioned that it will take place sometime in February or early March, but we don’t have the exact date on hand.

- Grant Update- Jen Roach, a mother of a 5th grader, offered her services to explore additional funding for grants. The couple grants that we did apply for this year, through the Buck Foundation, were not funded. Jen will request feedback from the foundation to improve our grant proposals next year.

Karen Fingerman mentioned that the grant cycle is opening again in January. Karen shared that the DSAF funded a grant for the 5th graders to do calligraphy. Sarah Roseen added that there is \$6,000 in funds, from the DSAF, going towards projects happening at NDE.

- Makerfaire- We do have money for the Makerfaire in the Spring. The fall one was very well attended and quite successful.

- **Robotics Team- Ingrid Salim has secured funding to get a pilot robotics team going at NDE.**
  
- **Nominating Committee**
  - Bobbi explained that we need to have a nominating committee (3 people) who help to suggest possible people to fill the PTA board positions.
  - If no one wants a position, the person currently holding the role can stay in it for 2 years. If more than one person is vying for a position, then there is a vote.
  - Bobbi shared the PTA motto; “Every Child, One Voice.” She noted that the PTA membership’s goal is to represent all children at NDE and that coming to meetings, volunteering, or being on the board is a way to make sure your ideas are heard.
  - If you are thinking of being part of the board, or the nominating committee, please let us know.
  
- Bobbi introduced Kerry as the Classroom Representative Coordinator. She shared the need for having a classroom parent representative to help the teacher with projects, coordinate fundraisers, and assist in communicating about events. Bobbi added the success of the Community Cart as a positive way that we are building an inclusive school environment.
- A question was posed about what the actual role is of the classroom parent representative. It was suggested that in the future, we have a list of what the jobs of the representatives are. Kerry added that going forward, she can write emails for the class reps to distribute or facilitate in getting out that information.
  
- **Principal’s Update**
  - Sarah Roseen thanked the Davis School Arts Foundation again for funding so many grants at NDE.
  - The counseling center is up and running as of this week. Counselors are seeing groups and individuals, and there is also a schedule up for recess and lunch activities.
  - Last week, Ms. Perry, a school counselor, put on a parent night focusing on student resiliency. Sarah Roseen would like to see future workshops well attended since there was a lot of positive feedback. A suggestion was made that the workshop be called something different to engage more parents and families.
  - Sarah announced that NDE will be holding their Climate Committee meetings beginning in January. There are already many parents who would like to be a part of that group. Alicia Perry, school counselor, will be a part of that group to help connect it to what is happening in the counseling center.
  
- **Teacher’s Update**

Jennifer Aguilar and Karen Fingerman shared updates from various grade levels.

Kinder is looking forward to their "Music with Mindy" program, which starts in January. The kinder students are enjoying their new playground equipment and are looking forward to their new grass, which will be ready to play on in January. Lisa Lengtat expressed an interest in doing a kinder mosaic in their play yard with a focus on Kelso's Choices.

First grade wants to thank PTA for the Makerfaire workshop because families were excited and loved the event. They are looking forward to the one in the spring. The first graders are working hard on their musical with Ms. Mindy based on fables. First grade is hoping to do Voice of the Wood, but they don't have enough money this year. It would be \$350 for K-2 grades. Karen Fingerman noted that it is normally covered through the DSAF grants.

Last year, the PTA funded some felting materials for the school to use. The 5th grade paid, through grade level money, for June Wood to come in and teach the kids to felt. Their products were amazing! The 6th graders plan to make something with the felting kits as well.

Karen also shared how grateful the teachers are for the Art Boxes, funded by PTA. The materials, housed in the Staff Room, are used by all grade levels. Karen and Becca, the two teachers in charge, will plan to restock the materials over break.

The 4th, 5th and 6th grades just finished up a three week fencing program with Simon from the Davis Fencing Academy. Students enjoyed learning various skills and playing thrilling rounds of "Simon Says."

The 5th grade just finished up a several week instructional series focused on the fitness needed for the CA State Fitness Testing. The program was sponsored by the PTA and run by Kristen Muir and Kerry Sortor. The kids were taught the correct form and practiced all of the exercises that will be performed in the spring test.

- **Upcoming Events**
  - International Potluck- date TBD
    - Dave is hoping to make this a larger event, which may require postponing the potluck to a month when weather is more reliable.
  - Community Cart
    - Brenna explained the premise of the Community Cart and the different cultures that were represented already this year. Brenna is collecting pictures and recipes to put together a cookbook that can be a gift to these families who have participated this year. The cookbook could also be a fundraiser for NDE families.
- It was mentioned that with the proposed tax bill, the Senate may do away with charitable donation write offs in 2018. If that is the case, it was suggested that we do a fundraising drive before this law goes into effect.

- **Someone mentioned an organization, called Farm Davis, and they have a specific program called Grow and Give. The program is geared toward 5th graders. The kids go out and plant the food, harvest, then cook a meal for a local senior home and share the meal together. 5th grade teachers will look into this idea.**

**Meeting adjourned 8:01pm.**