

MINUTES

Marion Walker Elementary PTO

September 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Amanda Grindley at 6:30p.m.

Pledge of allegiance lead by Amanda Grindley

In attendance

Amanda Grindley	Lindsey Harter	Megan Aberegg	Heather Huntsinger	Colleen DeFonzo
Karen Krisch	Nichole Hockenberry	Maria Posada	Ashley Jacobs	Jen Buzard
Amber Buchanan	Jodi Johnston	Hanna Burke	Cynthia Naspinski	Jackie Wynkoop
Beky Strouse	Mike Brooks	Kim Kneas-Hilliker	Amy Heverly	Tracie Horn
Megan VanOrden	Megan Douty	Joey Stewart	Janel Spotts	Amanda Fedisson
Allison Kyte	Laurie Henry	Heather Rimmey	Verna Schoonover	Matt Burrows
Jacki Hopkins				

PTO Mission

The PTO Mission was reviewed. We are an organization of Parents working together with the teachers for our kids.

Officer Introduction

Amanda Grindley, President; Lindsey Harter, Vice President; Megan Aberegg, Secretary; Heather Huntsinger, Treasurer.

Committee Introductions & Reports

Ways and Means:

- Pumpkins will be distributed to all students in grades Kindergarten through 2nd. Teachers coordinate classroom activities to use the pumpkins.
- Family Fun Bowling Day- Free bowling and shoe rentals for Marion Walker student and families.
- Teacher Appreciation Day- Lunch provided for the teachers in May.

Fundraising: Cynthia Naspinski

- This is Cynthia's last year as chair of the Fundraising committee. Chrissy Grove will be taking over for her.
- Fall Fundraiser kickoff has started. Delivery will be on November 13. Fundraising opt out option will be sent home with the PTO Membership drive.

5K/1 Mile:

- Race will be held on September 28th. The Fall Festival will follow the run at Walker Park.

Holiday Store: Amanda Fedisson

- Holiday Store will be held on December 6th. Cafeteria is transformed into the North Pole for students to shop for gifts priced \$0.25-\$4.00.

- Donations of store bought and handmade crafts are needed. Last year supply was down, so we need extra donations this year. Need volunteers for crafting, kits are available.
- Looking for someone to learn the ropes of being chair of Holiday Store. Also, more space is needed to store crafts ahead of time.

Membership: Ashley and Amanda

- PTO Membership Drive will be held from October 1-21, 2019.
- There are three tiers of membership: Silver, Gold and Diamond. Each tier has its own perks. Diamond level opts out of fundraisers.

Volunteer Coordinator: Jackie Wynkoop

- Volunteer survey has been sent out in paper form and email. There have been 32 surveys completed so far.
- Clearances are needed for volunteers during daytime school activities. No clearances are needed for evening school activities.
- Holiday Store and Field Day are always in need of volunteers. These events always lack enough volunteers.

BOX TOPS: Hanna Burke

- Box top program is changing. There will no longer be clipping of box tops from products. There is now a digital app to scan your receipt instead. The digital app looks for qualifying products and then will apply the contribution to the school.
- We will need to change the way students are rewarded for turning in box tops with the new program. We may need to change to a school goal (Cookie party, hat day, etc) instead of individual ice cream coupons.
- Approximately \$2,000-\$2,500 annually is brought in to the school through the Box Top program.

Halloween/Fall Dance: Lindsey Harter

- Dance will be held on Friday, October 25th. Exact time has not been decided.
- Many volunteers are needed to make the dance possible. We are in need of a DJ this year also.
- Discussion over the cover charge for the dance. We still need to charge a cover charge, but might be able to reduce that cost and have people donate canned goods also.

Book Distribution: Lindsey Harter

- The PTO gives all of the students a new book two times each year. The first book distribution will be held on October 25th. There will also be another distribution sometime in the Spring.
- Books are ordered from Scholastic books.

Winter Carnival:

- Laurie Henry/Lindsey Harter (Raffle Committee)- Each classroom picks a theme and donates items for raffle baskets. Tickets are sold for \$1.
- Classrooms are set up with games to win prizes, the kitchen has food available for sale, and bounce house is also set up.
- Need lots of volunteers to make this event possible. No clearances are needed. High school students are able to get volunteer service hours.

Yearbook:

- Using a new company this year for yearbooks, InterState Studio (Gordon is our rep). New company will make things easier and cheaper (\$4 cheaper per book).
- Yearbooks are only going to be available to order on picture day in the Fall, October 10th. Yearbooks will be an option on the Picture form that is sent home with students.

T-Shirt Sales:

- Moving t-shirt sale date until early January 2020. There are too many things coming home at the start of the school year. There will be a smaller window of time to order t-shirts as well (approx. 2 weeks).
- Design Contest (Kim Kneas-Hilliker)-Students in grades 4 and 5 can submit designs for the t-shirts and then the PTO narrows down the finalists. Final vote is done by the students.
- Sale is open to students and families. Discussion was made about changing color distribution among classes. May have just one color for all students.
- Danny Miller, new PE teacher at Marion Walker, also discussed making some changes to Field Day. He is open to new ideas and games. A dunk tank and a celebrity guest visit were a couple things mentioned. A separate Field Day meeting to discuss further ideas was mentioned.

Reading Counts:

- Reading Counts lab will be offered two times per month. Volunteers are needed to monitor the lab. Strict rules will be posted so there are no issues. Grades K-3 will be able to use their books for quizzes, and grades 4 & 5 will not be able to use their books.
- Students read books and take quizzes. Each book is assigned a point value. Assemblies are held twice a year where students are given awards.
- Mrs. Krisch – Reading counts does not affect students' grades. Teachers can set their own incentives and goals for their students.

Treasurer's Report

Heather Huntsinger read through all the movement in the budget.

Motion made by Amanda Grindley to approve Treasurer's Report.

Approved by: Hanna Burke

Second: Lindsey Harter

Mrs. Krisch

- Staffing changes were discussed. Mrs. Blair, Guidance counselor, will be leaving Marion Walker. Ashley Hamilton will be transferring from Bellefonte Elementary in November to take her place.
- Job positions available: Custodial position available with benefits. Learning support aide positions are also available and YMCA positions.

Teacher Rep: Colleen DeFonzo

- Thanks to the PTO for funds. There are both Marion Walker Elementary and Marion Walker PTO Facebook pages that information is posted on.

New Business

- Teacher Wish List –Need Non-Curriculum based ideas for the school. In the past, benches, playground equipment, and promethean boards have been purchased. A gazebo was suggested to provide a shaded area for students and teachers.
- Cookie Jar for teachers. Quantity of cookies is changing. Sign up sheet was passed around for volunteers.
- Clearance Reminders: Volunteers need clearances to participate in daytime school activities. Clearances are not required for after school activities.

Next meeting will be October 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Marion Walker Elementary School Library.

Motion made by Amanda Grindley to adjourn.

Approved by: Colleen DeFonzo

Second: Jen Buzard

Submitted by Megan Aberegg