



Home & School Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2014
Elmwood Library
7:00 – 9:00pm
Minutes

1) Welcome & Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m.

Officers – Cathy Boerner, Colleen Tadych, Kathy Quandt, Alison Giese

Staff – Principal Royce Lindner, Assistant Principal Meghan Lippold, Cynthia Colden, Michelle Breitenfeldt, Christine Stelman

Parents – Cathy Bartels, Marlo McCormick, Tanya Loomer, Colleen Korom, Ann Szefflinski, Rosamaria and Alejandro Martinez, Tonia Schmeier, Alicyn Keller, Rachel Schaar, Nicole Cooke.

2) Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2013

No corrections. Motion to approve minutes by Tonia Loomer and seconded by Marlo McCormick. Minutes approved.

3) Treasurer's Report

Revenue - Box Tops for education will go up another \$900 in revenue and we expect Matty's revenue to be a bit higher this year. We still have the Teacher/Staff Service Raffle and Cubs on the Prowl revenue to look forward to as well.

Expenses - \$3,500 was paid out to Co-Curriculars, Hospitality expenses increased slightly and the \$1,000 budgeted for the school musical will be spent in full. \$4,700 has been paid out this school year out of our fiscal budget of \$13,400. We hold \$3,300 for future Artist in residence and cart mart and an additional \$9,400 is being held for Chess club.

As of today, January 21, 2014 we have approximately \$70,000 in our accounts. After taking out the amounts that we have to hold (listed above) and reserving for the remaining school year's expense, we have approximately \$42,000 that could be spent on school needs.

New Playground Equipment

A synopsis was given in regards to the timeline history and process. Cost to replace items as a band aid were reviewed at an amount of approximately

\$25,000 that would only repair needed sections failing, but not the overall structure. The current structure has about another year or two left of life in its current state or less where damaged/failing. We are seeking to earmark/allocate \$30,000 of Home and School money in our account to put towards a new playground for K-3 and seeking to have the School District contribute the remainder. We will still have \$20,000 left in reserve for future operating expenses.

Discussion-

A question was posed about possibly getting the upper playground spider web fixed within the confines of this quote.

Another asked how we came to this company that we have the quote from. We gave a detailed history of our search from the Internet, to looking at schools and parks in and around Milwaukee County and New Berlin's Park and Recreation Department. The company Home and School chose was also the company who has placed many of the playground structures in New Berlin Parks over the past 10 years as well as our own current structure (unbeknownst to us as the search began). Since New Berlin Park and Rec had done a lot of the legwork in regards to prices, etc. we decided to go with the current company. Also, while we were researching this, so was Andy Stefancin from our school district and ironically we got similar quotes for similar play structures unbeknownst to each other.

Concerns rose from the floor about the green ladder climber – i.e. - kids can fill the holes up with mud and some of these have poor or no drainage. On several inspections of other playgrounds in use after rain, observations were made about the safety and this concern and did not see any problems (a similar playground in Whitefish Bay did not have this issue – the company of choice also installed it) Another note of concern was that when writing up the contract, we have yearly checks on the equipment and also have the posts checked after built and subsequent timelines thereafter.

Concern from Elmwood teachers was raised concerning the Chin-up bars and injuries that have happened as a result of using them by teacher's aides outside. Colleen Korom suggested a funnel ball instead. Also, there was a discussion about perhaps reducing the wood chip area in the back end because the ditch becomes a river and reduce the green space to back area because of mud (behind wood chips eastward to drive) There was discussion about whether the contractors can make area more viable for drainage because the kindergartners don't have easy access when it's muddy in spring or after a rain.

Colleen Tadych asked the teachers if they would like the playground equipment closer or further from the school. Alejandro Martinez wanted to know what options there are for playground surface. He had seen that St. Mary's has rubber chips. Principal Lindner did not know if that type of surface required a concrete undersurface (raise in costs)

Principal Lindner will present our earmarked amount for the playground structure to the School District.

Timeline this fall – Monetary funds in savings for Home and School. We need a motion to earmark said money (\$30,000) and present to district for their approval and amount they will be willing to put up for this project and if they give less, how we will modify/change the current structure and accessory structures. The current written project quote has an expiration date, so we need to act now. Dependent upon what the district approves, we can always take some accessory structures off and fundraise for them at a later date.

Discussion to raise the amount from \$30,000 to \$32,000 ensued. Since we have \$44,000, \$13,000 has already been accounted for and there may be about \$5,000 more in expenditures. Question on the floor, Can we spend more than this? We also informed everyone that Principal Lindner sent out surveys to all staff asking what they wanted for the school/students and to list it by priority. We were able to meet needs of more books for the classrooms by using Scholastic funds and the next highest was new playground equipment.

Cynthia Colden asked if Home and School would be liable for the equipment. Principal Lindner stated that the School District assumes the liability. Ann Szefflinski drove a lot of the questions during our discussion and included some of the following:

Why not use more money that we have in our funds to get this done?
What is the history of the quotes and how did we come to the company and this quote (it was also voiced that Orchard Lane's equipment is failing too).
Nicole Cooke wanted to know how we need to word a motion so that we can approve \$30,000 and send that funding proposal to the School District of New Berlin for their amount (knowing that we can add approximately another \$5,000 right now)

Nicole Cooke moves to allocate \$32,000 for playground equipment for the K-3 playground, keeping in mind teachers' needs and to approach the New Berlin School District with our \$32,000 in funds seeking the remainder of \$42,716 from the district to meet the amount of the existing price quote.
Second by Tanya Loomer.

Vote tally by written ballot. 11 voted in Favor of the motion, 1 opposed.

4) Notes from the Co-Presidents, Colleen Tadych and Cathy Boerner

Colleen Tadych – We are in need of Chairs for 6th Grade Graduation and Dinner and a Show (did not hold this year). Also, a Junior Achievement Coordinator – Marlo McCormick for the JA program for Kindergarten. She said it is a 5 series session for 30 each minutes, all materials and instructions are provided. The JA Coordinator/Chairperson would recruit volunteers for classrooms and assist with coordination.

We are looking to expand Low Effort Fundraising. New ideas include: The Rock in Franklin, Culvers Nite in New Berlin, Admirals, Helium Trampoline, and Kwik Trip. Each event would need a chairperson. See Colleen Tadych or Cathy Boerner.

Home and School has an area on the right hand side of the front hall with a bulletin board and cabinets. This area is going to get a makeover from one of our parents and will be more interactive than it is currently.

5) Notes from our Principal, Royce Lindner

Thank you to all families for accommodating Fridays off for students so teachers can use these days for educational learning/training/collaborative events. Report Cards will be available on Infinite Campus on January 31st. Over 200 families have completed the Community Survey.

Principal Royce Lindner relayed that Fridays off will continue in the 2014-2015 school year, but there will be a few Mondays too to align with Federal Holidays. The School Board usually approves calendar in February. We have also been told that our students will not have to make up any snow/cold days up to this point.

Vice Principal, Meghan Lippold

Elmwood is now live on Facebook and Twitter and will be advertised as such in Elmwords starting this Friday.

MAP Testing – Online adaptive testing began with 4th, 5th, and 6th who are just finishing up. Beginning this week and ending in 2 weeks will be K-3. Reports will be available by early February.

Building wide Achievement Assembly will be held again next month. MAP testing is one tool that identifies achievement. Growth has been climbing too!

6) Committee Reports for Past Events

- a. Movie Night – November 22 – well attended.
- b. Wilderness Weekend – very low, only \$27 earned. Need to research changing to a different date or time of year.
- c. Shop 'Til You Drop – completed. Earned \$1,152.91. Kathy Quandt thanked Alison Giese and Theresa Sebestyen for taking over last minute due to an emergency hospitalization. Great bakesale, and a good group of volunteers made this a successful event. Everyone did well and vendors are already inquiring about next year (repeats as well as two new ones). Need to send home an email advertising the event and need for volunteers as well as advertising in Elmwords.

7) Committee Reports for Upcoming Events

- a. Pack 38 Carnival – January 24 – 6:00-8:30pm (this Friday) There will be games, toys, prizes, food. Bring your money. A plea had been put out earlier to donate toys for prizes.
- b. McDonald's Night – Thursday, January 30 – 4:00-7:00pm (On National Ave/Moorland Road in New Berlin) Manning the registers will be Colleen Korom,

Principal Lindner and Vice Principal Lippold. Principal Lindner is posting a sign-up for staff.

- c. Teacher's Raffle – February 3-7 in the Monet Café. Still looking for volunteers to operate the tables but we will have about 20 offerings thus far. Advertising in Elmwords for volunteers via Sign-upGenius.com and a Raffle Offering listing will be placed in Elmwords for 2 Fridays prior to Raffle week.
- d. All School Skate – February 27 – 6:00 – 8:00pm at Incredi-Roll.
- e. Movie Night – March 7 – 6:15-8:15 Do not know the movie title yet

8) Open Floor

A question was asked about whether we make any money for the All School Skate and an answer of yes was given, a small amount.

- 9) **Adjourn** – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18th at 7pm in the Elmwood Library. Motion to adjourn by Nicole Cooke and seconded by Cathy Bartels. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.