# Pinecrest Parent Council Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2016

# Welcome

**In Attendance:** Christe Alwin, Jen Shangraw, Tanya Merritt, Ellie Vlahos, Katie Van Dorn, Madhavi Natla, Erin Graham, Megan Droware, Tanisha Terry, Ihsasn Djomehri, Derek Laurain, Greg Severin, Maryann Al-Damook, Heather Dufner, Amy Webster, and Karen McCloskey, and several 3rd grade students.

**Call to order:** Christe Alwin called the meeting to order on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 P.M.

**Approval of the Agenda and** **Minutes:** The agenda was revised to allow the teacher and students to report first. The agenda was motioned for approval, seconded, and verbally approved. The November minutes, were motioned, seconded, and approved.

# Officer Reports:

**Teacher’s Report** – Heather Dufner

* Ms. Dufner and students presented two initiatives they would like the parent council to support.
  + **Recycling food trays**. Students analyzed the amount of food and garbage thrown out every week and found a lot of waste. They would like to start recycling used but clean Styrofoam food trays through DART. They want the Parent Council to assist with getting the trays to a drop off location. DART, based in Mason, has drop off locations in Haslett and Holt, about 15-minute drive from Pinecrest Elementary. The class will research this more and develop a sign-up that the parent council can promote.
  + Students requested raising money by selling additional items at the upcoming movie night. They want to raise money to help people who are homeless. The parent council agreed they could sell additional items.

**Board Updates -** Christe Alwin, Jen Shangraw, Tanya Merritt, Katie Van Dorn, and Ellie Vlahos

* There will be a Pinecrest Spirit wear reorder in February.
* Ms Rawlinson is retiring, the parent council will present a plaque to her for her years of service.
* Students who raised $20 or more for the Fun Run received a scholastic voucher to use at the book fair this week.
* The **Parent Council** has $11,180 in budget commitments every year, which may be difficult to maintain with current fundraising efforts.
  + These commitments include teacher reimbursements ($150/teacher), fifty percent of the cost of Wharton center tickets, the 3rd and 5th grade zoo weeks, 4th grade trip to Hoffmaster, and the 5th grade Mission to Mars, as well as half of the transportation costs for all other field trips.
  + The council is asking teachers to submit requests for any other expenses expected for the year.
  + The council is going to reassess which trips it is helping to support financially, and would like to have more information about why the parent council should fund specific activities.
  + The council will look into what trips other 5th grades take. Council members suggested looking into the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and attending a middle school concert to give exposure to various instruments.
* **December’s movie night** is scheduled for **Friday, December 9.** December is sponsored by the 3rd grade.
* **Marco’s Pizza Night** is the 1st Wednesday of every month. This is for the Marcos on Lake Lansing. When ordering, indicate you are from Pinecrest and give the teachers name. Orders must be placed over the phone, not online. Marcos is doing the signage and may even have a person dressed up Marco after school to further advertise.
  + November Pizza Night had 18 orders and October had 17. This earns about $50/month for the parent council.
  + After the school has 50 orders, the class with the most earns a free pizza party.
* **Treasure’s Report:** (Treasurer absent).
  + The treasurer, Amy, requested and was granted an extension for the parent council’s taxes. The Parent Council is classified as a foundation that earns $50,000 or more per year, instead of a simple nonprofit organization. (The council does not raise $50,000 per year) Amy is working to change this classification, which will make taxes easier going forward.
  + The starting balance in July 2016 was $13,185 and the ending balance in November 2016 was $14,906.
  + Expenses during November include supplies for the movie night and gift cards to the janitorial staff for their help with the many afterschool activities.

**Principal’s Report** – Amy Webster

* Pinecrest hired a new interventionist, Ashley Berg. She facilitates reading and math groups.
* The new librarian is doing great and the children love her.
* The Equity team is running an Hour of Code workshop on Wednesday, December 7 in the multi-purpose room.

**East Lansing Board of Education Update** – Erin Graham

* The application for the **Mental Health Advisory Committee** is being extended to December 11. This advisory committee will report to the school board. The extension is to encourage more high school students to apply to participate.
* The school board will vote on the **elementary school bond** on Monday, December 12, 2016. The vote is to decide the financial scope of the bond, not to determine the design of the schools. If the bond passes, there will be additional hearings regarding the building designs.
  + Two building scenarios were presented. Both recommendations are to rebuild five schools and to renovate Red Cedar Elementary. The two scenarios differ only in the size of each building (all the same or a couple smaller and a couple larger elementary schools).
  + For all schools except Donely Elementary, students will need to move out of the building in order to rebuild it. Donely’s property is large enough to support building on it while using the existing space. Red Cedar Elementary could be used while other schools are being rebuilt.
  + With this bond, a home with a taxable value of $100,000 will pay an estimated additional $185 per year in property taxes.

# Old and New Business

* It has been a large challenge to get volunteers to cover all the necessary shifts for the **Scholastic Book Fairs**, even with Aris Baily covering all school hours.
  + The council is recommending holding only two fairs per year, instead of three. Only having two fairs will decrease the amount of money Pinecrest earns from each book fair.
  + Also, the council recommends holding each fair for four days, instead of five.
* **Overcrowding** at Pinecrest is a continued concern. There are no additional spaces in the building for additional classrooms. If there are three sections of Kindergarten again next year, it could present an issue.
* **The Equity team** received a $6,000 collaborative grant from the East Lansing Education Foundation (ELEF) to purchase multicultural books and materials. These materials will be used across all grades.
* Tina Crawford is helping with the **Sparrow Mileage Club** this year.
* The Fox Room thanked the parent council for the Zoo lesson and Tina Crawford thanked the council for the new soccer nets.
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Movie Nights
    - Dec 9th – 3rd grade
    - Jan 13th – 2nd grade
    - March 10th – 1st grade
    - April 14th – Kindergarten
    - May 12th – Girl Scouts
  + STEM Activity Night – Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 6:00 to 7:30pm.
  + Multicultural Night – Late January (exact date TBD)
  + Heart Hop Dance – Friday, February 10, 2017
  + Science Fair – March (exact date TBD)
  + Carnival – May 19th

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Christe Alwin at 8:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Katie Van Dorn, Secretary