# Pinecrest Parent Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2017

# Welcome

**In Attendance:** Madhavi Natla, Amy Webster, Katherine Fisher, Ellie Vlahos, Amy Adams, Tanya Merritt, Yasmina Bouraoui, Jen Shangraw, Christe Alwin, Katie Van Dorn, and Kevin and Tammy Epling.

**Call to order:** Christe Alwin called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00 P.M.

**Approval of the Agenda and** **Minutes:** The agenda was revised to allow the special presentation and opportunity from Kevin and Tammy Epling. The agenda was motioned for approval, seconded, and verbally approved. The January minutes were not yet available, they will be available at next month’s meeting.

# New Business

**Friendship/Buddy Benches** –

* Kevin and Tammy Epling proposed two ideas they would like to offer to the school as bully prevention. 1) They proposed purchasing a buddy/friendship bench that students could help paint and make their own. The buddy/friendship bench aims to reduce loneliness and foster friendships and inclusiveness. The bench would be placed outside on the playground. 2) They proposed purchasing Hero Boxes, which is a box where students can put notes about other students’ behavior(s). In other schools that have implemented this, they find the that students generally submit examples of positive behavior and of instances of students standing up for one another. The boxes could be moved from classroom to classroom and decorated as superheroes.
  + In the discussion of these ideas, there was a concern that many of the younger grades may not be able to benefit from the Hero Boxes because of their developing writing skills.

# Officer Reports:

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

* The **Carnival Planning** is underway, led by Jen Shangraw.
  + Madhavi is getting donations for the raffles. Teachers will be asked to create themed classroom baskets for the raffle, families from that classroom can help donate the items in the basket. Amy Webster offered 5 half days for the raffle for a student to “be the principal” and shadow her.
  + Several activity ideas are underway including game truck, inflatables, cupcake walk, and firetrucks and ambulances.
  + Many events will require tickets, which have a cost. Teachers will be able to give out tickets to students as needed for good behavior, prior to the carnival.
* **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.
  + After the school has 50 orders, the class with the most earns a free pizza party.
* **The Heart Hop dance** coming up on Friday, February 10. It is Candy Land themed. More volunteers are needed. The cotton candy machine will be dropped off earlier in the week. The office will help find a place to store this until it is needed on Friday.
* **Treasurer** **update**:
  + **Taxes:** An extension for the taxes was files. A firm to prepare the taxes cost $500, it should be free for a small organization like the parent council if we could e-file on a 9-90 postcard. Pinecrest Parent Council is registered as a foundation with the IRS. It will cost $1000 to switch the PPC from a foundation status to a small non-profit.
    - Ellie Vlahos offered to check with the law firm she works with to see if this could be done for less money.
    - The group voted in favor of spending up to $1,500 to file and switch the parent council IRS status.
  + Update on **switching banking from PNC to MSU**: MSU cannot do an online payment link on the website, like PNC offers, but for which it charges a $35 monthly fee.
    - Will ask at the next district parent council meeting what others do.
* There will be a Pinecrest Spirit wear reorder in February.
* **Movie night** interest is dwindling, more advertisement may be necessary. The 2nd grade had very low turn-out, thank you to a generous donation so that the amount earned was similar to previous months.
  + The Girl Scouts wanted to do a movie night in May, but due to dwindling attendance, there will be no movie night for May.

**Principal’s Report** – Amy Webster

* A new media center specialist was hired, Shae Stoddard. She starts this week with classes resuming trips to the library next week.
* Students wrote thank you cards to the council for all their help and support to the school.
* Teachers agree that they would like to use Scholastic dollars to purchase one book for each student. March is a kindness theme and it is reading month.

**Teacher’s Report** – Katherine Fisher

* No report.
* Offered to help pick out books for March is Reading Month to give to each of the students.

**East Lansing Board of Education** – Yasmina Bouraoui

* The superintendent resigned effective June 30, her resignation was accepted. Due to concerns about being able to look for a new superintendent and focus on passing the bond, Dori Leyko was appointed interim superintendent. Dr. Thompson is available to provide consultation and assistance on any projects that are asked of her.
  + No clear timeline for hiring a new superintendent.
* The school bond is to rebuild 5 elementary schools and renovate Red Cedar. It is for $93,770,00 and will go to a vote by East Lansing residents on May 2, 2017. In comparison, $53 million was spent on a new high school 20 years ago. The schools will each have two sections K-5, except for Red Cedar which will have early childhood and one section K-5. There will be public forums on the bond proposal and a FAQ distributed soon.
* School board confirmed its support for diversity and inclusion. ICE agents (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) are not allowed on school property to do immigration enforcement.

# Old and New Business

* STEM night and Multicultural nights were great successes. Thank you to everyone who helped support these events. Plan to do these events again next year.
* The next **Scholastic Book Fair** dates were moved to March 27 to March 31. This will overlap with the Science Fair. The Science Theater will be present for the Science Fair, the date is TBD.
* **Box Tops for Education:** Box Tops must be turned in no later than February 17 to be counted toward this submission. There is a Pizza Party incentive to the class that earns the most. Girl Scouts are available to help count and trim these. Ms. Holbrook is helping package them.
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Movie Nights
    - March 10th – 1st grade
    - April 14th – Kindergarten
    - May 12th – Girl Scouts
  + Heart Hop Dance – Friday, February 10, 2017; dinner 5:30-6:30, dance starts at 6:00
  + Scholastic Book Fair – March 27 - 31
  + Science Fair – March 29
  + Carnival – May 19th

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Christe Alwin at 8:13 PM.

Minutes submitted by Katie Van Dorn, Secretary