# Pinecrest Parent Council Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2017

# Welcome

**In Attendance:** Madhavi Natla, Todd Parker, Matt Pacer, Diane Tunistra, Amy Webster, Karen McCloskey, April Hunt, Ellie Vlahos, Kate Powers, Tanya Merritt, Jen Shangraw, Christe Alwin, and Katie Van Dorn

**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 school board report to the start. The agenda was motioned for approval, seconded, and verbally approved. The December minutes—available online—were motioned, seconded, and approved.

# Officer Reports:

**East Lansing Board of Education** – Kate Powers

* The school board met online to discuss the application to the Treasury regarding the bond proposal that will go to the voters in May 2017. After it is submitted, the Treasury will review and assess it based on student enrollment projections. Decisions about what the building sites to look like, how they will be utilized, and in what order they will be rebuilt are to be determined.
* The **Mental Health Advisory Committee** appointees remain confidential until they have accepted their appointments. There were over 50 applicants, including several high school students. The students may be able to rotate in and out on the board, as they do with other school boards (e.g., sex education advisory board).
* There is time available on the school board agenda to allow for parent councils to share information about their current activities. The board wants to know what they can do to support the parent council in their upcoming activities.

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

* **Treasurer** **update**:
  + It is investigating moving its banking to MSUFCU from PNC due to the excessive monthly bank fees, two percent credit card transaction fees, and due to the difficultly in resolving account issues.
  + It canceled the monthly Quickbooks subscription as the new laptop has all of the accounting information needed on it and it can go to the next treasurer.
* There will be a Pinecrest Spirit wear reorder in February.
* The fifth-grade purchased two chairs and some books with their movie night funds. The third and fourth grade have not yet spent their money earned from movie night.
* Movie night interest is dwindling, more advertisement may be necessary. Amy Webster advertises it in the morning the day of the movie.
* **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.
  + The Marco’s signage is, unfortunately inconsistent, but the email reminders the day before and day of are helpful.
  + December’s Pizza Night earned about $51 for the parent council.
  + After the school has 50 orders, the class with the most earns a free pizza party.
* STEM night is on January 11. There are several activities planned, including a few by Pinecrest teachers. There is still a need for volunteers.

**Principal’s Report** – Amy Webster

* The Equity Team received a grant from the East Lansing Educational Foundation for new picture books, which arrived today. The books will be read with the whole school, although some are for specific grades. The books feature more diverse characters, including a variety of races, ethnicities, cultures, special needs, and socioeconomic representations.
* Ashley Simpkins was hired as the new GSRP assistant teachers. She came from a Dewitt preschool program.
* Christe will give the “Who is Pinecrest” forms to Amy Webster. Amy will review them and write something up about Pinecrest from this information.

**Teacher’s Report** – none present

# Old and New Business

* The December **Scholastic Book Fair** earned $4,800 in scholastic dollars. All of the books in teacher’s buckets were purchased as well as books for the library for a cost of $2,600. Amy Webster will talk with teachers about what the school would like with the additional $2,200 earned through the fair. They may want to purchase more books for the book room or to purchase a book for every student. The library may also need more books. The scholastic catalogue is available online with available options.
* **March is reading month**. The last Scholastic Book Fair of the year will be in March.Last year a book was provided to every student. Multiple copies of dollar books were purchased and then students were able to pick out their own book from the available options.
* Steve Depskey, a parent and a lunch monitor, runs the **Sparrow Mileage Club**. He has already registered Pinecrest to participate. Parents need to register their child for them to earn prizes. There will be a mile course set up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. As the kids go around, they get their cards punched. Last year was difficult to get in a lot of miles because of all the rainy days. More days can be available if there are more volunteers. Christe will follow up with Steve and Tina Crawford.
* **Girls on the Run** (GOTR) starts soon. This is its first year at Pinecrest; it is targeted at 3rd to 5th graders and takes place after school. GOTR helps build girls’ self-esteem, develop team work, and they work towards running a 5k. It is $150 to participate and it includes a $30 gift card to Playmakers.
* **Box Tops for Education** earned $763. Matt Pacer has continued to help organize this. The last collection is in early March. 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.
* **The school directory** has had some updates from Mrs P’s Kindergarten class, which was not previously represented in the directory.
* Efforts are ongoing to organize upcoming events, volunteers are needed for all of these events. Signup Geniuses will be created and available online.
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Movie Nights
    - 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 – Thursday, January 26, 6:00-7:30pm
  + Heart Hop Dance – Friday, February 10, 2017; dinner 5:30-6:30, dance starts at 6:00
  + Science Fair – March 29
  + Carnival – May 19th

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Christe Alwin at 8:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Katie Van Dorn, Secretary