# Pinecrest Parent Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2017

# Welcome

**In Attendance:** Madhavi Natla, Amy Webster, Cindy Goff, Ellie Vlahos, Amy Adams, Kath Edsall, Jen Shangraw, Christe Alwin, Katie Van Dorn, Karen McCloskey, and Amy Reifor.

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

**Approval of the Agenda and** **Minutes:** The agenda was motioned for approval, seconded, and verbally approved. The January and February minutes, available online, were motioned for approval, seconded and verbally approved.

# Special Guest

**Safe Routes to School** –

Amy Reifor, a representative from Safe Routes to School gave an update about the program’s activities.

* It received a minigrant in July 2016, but was unable to hire anyone to run the program until October. It is reapplying for a second grant this year to continue to its education and safety efforts. It hopes to obtain a larger grant in future years that could help redesign the physical environment to support a safe route to school.
* Its past and planned activities include 1) working with the police department and Officer Wayland to do school assemblies about bike safety. 2) holding community bike safety events. The first took place in the fall, but was rained out, and another is planned for this spring on April 30 at Hanna Community Center. 3) planning to have walking school busses on Wednesday mornings this spring. A walking school bus is where students meet a parent at a designated neighborhood location and then all walk together to school, as if on a school bus. 4) Working with teachers and safeties to meet with kindergarteners to teach them how to walk to school safely.
* Safe Routes to School has new safety vests available. It has funding available for crosswalks and handheld stop signs.
* For more information, contact Amy Reifor, Stephanie Wagner, or Pinecrest parent Regan Quick-Severin.

The parent council members reported that there is no safe way for Pinecrest families that live on the west side of Coolidge to walk safely to school. There is no easily accessible crosswalk on Coolidge, unless students walk south to Saginaw or north to Lake Lansing, which is very inconvenient. New infrastructure is needed to support a safe route to school for these children. Ideas raised include a pedestrian bridge that crosses the street or a stoplight crosswalk.

The current interim superintendent is more supportive than the previous superintendent. The school board does not have a clear biking policy. Safe Routes to School would like to implement its education components about walking and biking safely to school (e.g., school assemblies, neighborhood bike parades, Rock and Roll Safety Day) before encouraging the school board to move towards a supportive bike policy. Pinecrest parent council members were verbally in support of encouraging students to safely bike to school.

# Officer Reports:

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

* **Spirit Wear** orders went in and will be ready later this month.
* **Treasurer** **update**:
  + Heart Hop Dance receipts came in a showed a profit of $570. This is up from previous years.
  + **Taxes:** A local law firm is filing the paperwork to establish the parent council as a simple nonprofit for free, however it may cost $750 to reestablish the tax-exempt status with the IRS, depending on why it was changed. If it was revoked, it will need to be reestablished. The available paperwork and institutional memory would suggest that it was initially established as a foundation and not a simple nonprofit. The Parent Council has until May to file its 2016 taxes.
* 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.
  + There will be no online auction component.
* The **Heart Hop Dance** had a great turnout and was a lot of fun. In the future, balloons will not be recommended as decorations. Several children popped them and other children struggled with the loud and abrupt popping noise.
* Due to dwindling **Movie night** interest, there will be no more planned Pinecrest movie nights.

**Principal’s Report** – Amy Webster

* Gilbert and Blakes invites the Parent Council to its luncheon fundraiser.
* March is reading month. A reading calendar of activities was sent home.
* The Equity Book this month was Ron’s Big Mission about Ron McNair from NASA. Every classroom read this book.

**Teacher’s Report** – Cindy Goff

* Through additional Title 1 funding, Pinecrest is offering a 0 hour to invited students who need additional support in Math and English Language Arts. 30-45 students attend Monday through Thursday at 7:40 AM, with breakfast and transportation provided. It is being well received by students and parents and is allowing teachers to focus intervention efforts on additional students throughout the school day.
* Planning to do a summer school program, but no details are available at this time.
* The 4th grade is planning to go to Lake Michigan, Fredrick Meijer Gardens, and to lunch this spring. This is an expensive trip for families. The Parent Council has historically supporting this trip. The parent council voted to support providing $1,100 to support this field trip. Amy Uecker will request a check from Amy Adams.

**East Lansing Board of Education** – No representative present.

* There is no clear timeline for hiring a new superintendent. Finding a new superintendent is a lot of work and the school board is focused on passing the school bond.
* There is a Bond Information night at Pinecrest on March 15 at 7pm.

# Old and New Business

* Parent Council elections. Christe and Jen are not running at council co-presidents next year. Katie Van Dorn is willing to continue as secretary and Amy Adams is willing to continue as treasurer. Tanya Merritt was not present. The book fair coordinator, volunteer coordinator. And boy scout liaison positions are open, although Heather Firman may be willing to be the boy scout liaison again next year. Several people are willing to continue their assistance with specific events, such as the Fun Run, STEM night, and the Science Fair.
* Parent Council purchased a plaque to commemorate Mrs. Rawlinson, who is retiring at the end of this year. She can choose books at the book fair and a portion of the library will be dedicated to her.
* **Box Tops for Education:** Hope to find a way to maximize this for next year. Some teachers were unaware that they should be collecting them.
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Scholastic Book Fair – March 28 to March 31
  + Science Fair – Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00
  + Lugnuts School Night – Friday, May 5
  + Spring Carnival – Friday, May 19th
  + Spring Clean-up – Emily Schnurr, date TBA

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Christe Alwin at 8:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by Katie Van Dorn, Secretary