# Pinecrest Parent Council Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2016

# Welcome

**In Attendance:** Christe Alwin, Jen Shangraw, Tanya Merritt, Ellie Vlahos, Katie Van Dorn, Matt Pacer, Diane Tuinstra, April Hunt, Shane Johnson, John Delano, Madhavi Natla, Jen VanDerHeide, Kath EdSall, Sherry Martin, and Karen McCloskey.

**Call to order:** Christe Alwin called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 P.M.

**Approval of the Agenda and** **Minutes:** The agenda was revised to allow the principal and school board reports to be first. The agenda was motioned for approval, seconded, and verbally approved. The October minutes, available online, were motioned, seconded, and approved.

# Officer Reports:

**Principal’s Report** – Shane Johnson

* Shane Johnson’s last week at Pinecrest is this week. Ms. Webster returns Thursday, November 3. Shane reported having a great experience at Pinecrest and he enjoyed getting to know so many great kids.
* The school district accountant sent a notice to the elementary schools on where to bill costs for the 2015-2016 year and going forward. There is a request for these costs to go back to the PTOs and to have the PTO support field trips at the 2012 levels. Additional follow up will be made to clarify if Pinecrest owes money to the district for last year’s field trips and how to handle field trip costs going forward.
* There is a current position opening at Pinecrest for the 31A programming.

**East Lansing Board of Education Update** – Kath EdSall

* The middle and high schools are successfully using **Restorative Justice** to reduce suspensions and expulsions. This is especially successful at the middle school. Restorative Justice is used when a student or students have an altercation/incident with another student(s) The involved students come together and discuss how the offending student’s behavior has harmed the other student(s) and they work together to identify solutions to make amends. This helps students understand and model empathy and aims to reduce future confrontations between the students.
* The district is reviewing its policies on **biking** **to school**, specifically at the elementary level. Historically, there was a policy against biking to school due to concern for liability. Now, however, there is no policy for or against it. School board members are working with Safe Route to Schools and others to identify if there should be a policy or if there should be guidelines in a school’s handbook. When considering how to encourage biking to school, the district wants to ensure that there are safe routes to bike to school, a place to keep and lock bikes, and ensure biking children have and wear helmets.
* The district is forming a committee with mental health professionals to support its **Mental Health Initiative**. This initiative aims to offer teachers professional development opportunities to help them better recognize kids who need mental health support and interventions. Also, looking to help support school counselors in being able to refer students who need mental health professional support.

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

* **October’s Movie Night** was a success; 88 people attended and the event earned $170. The fifth-grade classrooms earned $100. The teachers are deciding what they would like to do with this money and they will let the parent council know their plan shortly.
* **November’s movie night** is scheduled for **Friday, November 11.** November is sponsored by the 4th grade, which choose the movie Inside Out.
* **Soccer nets** were ordered. Jen Shangraw will follow up on when they will arrive.
* **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. Marcos is doing the signage and may even have a person dressed up Marco after school to further advertise.
  + October Pizza Night had 17 orders, which is up from last year’s average. This earned $51 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, is working on the council’s taxes, which are due mid-November. She is also processing all the teacher reimbursements.
  + There was a request for the treasurer’s report to include parent council’s beginning and ending monthly balances.

**Teacher’s Report** – Sherry Martin

* Mrs. Millhouse participated in a coding training and is teaming up with a group of Pinecrest teachers to offer a coding workshop during the Book Fair on Wednesday, December 7 from 6:30 to 7:30. There will be an RSVP because they will only be set up for 22 children. This is targeted to all students, all grades, at Pinecrest. If a lot of students sign up, they can look to opening a second classroom for this event. They will also plan to offer it at future school activities.

# Old and New Business

* **The Fun Run** met its goal and raised $8,050. There were about $2,000 in expenses between the t-shirts, inflatables, and other supplies. This is significantly less than the cost of having an outside organization run the event for us, as has been done in previous years.
  + Mrs. Fisher’s class was the top fund raising classroom. The top ten fundraisers throughout the school will receive a Scholastic gift card and a Playmakers gift card. The gift cards were generously donated by Playmakers.
  + Planning for this event next year will begin in February or March 2017, potentially enabling Playmakers to provide free support. It will likely be held in late September or early October again, to increase the chances for good weather.
* **The School Directory** was sent out electronically to all Pinecrest families. A handful of copies are available in the office and if a parent would like a printed copy, they can get one for $1 to cover printing costs.
  + Mrs. P’s class is largely absent from the directory. Ellie Vlahos will follow up with her and will consider sending out an updated directory after the new year if more families submit their contact information.
* **Math Night** is not currently scheduled and there is no chair for this event. (This event was in November last year). The MSU Math Coordinator has not yet responded to helping support this event. Parent Council is working to reimagine this event as STEM night and will host STEM activities in early January. Parent Council will reach out to teachers to assist with activities.
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Movie Nights
    - Nov 11th – 4th grade
    - Dec 9th – 3rd grade
    - Jan 13th – 2nd grade
    - March 10th – 1st grade
    - April 14th – Kindergarten
    - May 12th – Girl Scouts
  + Book Fair – December 7 to 11
  + Coding Workshop – December 7, 6:00-7:30
  + STEM Activity Night – Wednesday, January 11, 2017 (tentative)
  + 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 7:57PM.

Minutes submitted by Katie Van Dorn, Secretary