# Pinecrest Parent Council Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2016

# Welcome

**In Attendance:** Christe Alwin, Jen Shangraw, Tanya Merritt, Ellie Vlahos, Katie Van Dorn, Matt Pacer, April Hunt, Shane Johnson, Zachary Konett, Megan, Regan Quick-Severin, John Kersey, and Kath EdSall.

**Call to order:** Christe Alwin called the meeting to order on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 P.M.

**Approval of the Agenda and** **Minutes:** The agenda was motioned, seconded and approved. The September minutes, available online, were motioned, seconded, and approved. Christe proposed having the minutes available solely online in the future, this was seconded and approved by the board.

# Officer Reports:

**Presidents** **Report** – Christe Alwin and Jen Shangraw

* **The Scholastic Book Fair** surpassed its sales goal of $2,500, earning over $3,000, thanks in part to having it during curriculum night. Reaching this goal means that Pinecrest will receive a greater percentage of the sales in the winter and spring fairs.
  + All teachers received money for books for their classrooms. New teachers received $100, all others received $25, including the GSRP and special programs. A total of about $800 in books for teachers was provided.
  + The book fair has a new co-chair, kindergarten parent Lisa Parker.
* **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.
  + 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 of the teacher reimbursements.
* **Teacher Reimbursements** of up to $150 per teacher are still available. The teacher submits his/her expenses and then the council reimburses the teacher with a check. This has been available for several years, although not always at its current funding level. Teachers can use it for any classroom need, including books, furniture, rugs, etc.

**Principal’s Report** – Shane Johnson

* Shane Johnson is filling in for Ms. Webster. He is a 5th grade teacher from Marble.
* Pinecrest hired a full time Media Specialist, Ms. Bailey. She has recently graduated and wants to be a children’s librarian. She is engaging children quickly in the library and is doing great.

**Teacher’s Report** – Mr. Konnett

* **The Zoo Lesson takes** place in 3rd and 5th grade.
  + There are GLCEs (grade level content expectations) and lesson plans to go with the zoo lesson in both grades. The lesson includes a lot of dialogue, observation, research, and writing. Fifth graders research their animal during their observation time and are encouraged to do this on their phones. Mr. Konnett will look into having iPads available for the students who do not have a phone to bring with them. Students are encouraged to talk to the zookeepers and to ask them questions.
  + Third grade goes to the zoo the second week of November. Fifth grade goes at the end of November. The later dates are because new teachers must go through a 2-day training.
  + Questions or concerns about the zoo lesson should be directed to Mr. Konnett.
* Mr. Konnett will ask teachers to **please send home the fliers** they are given; many of these are time sensitive.

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

* A different board member will attend each school’s parent council meeting, as well the district council meeting, the ISD, and the LAF meetings. Rotating the attending member will allow each school to get to know the board members better and allow the board to have a better understanding of what is going on in each of the schools.
* The **Bond Committee** meets on Thursday nights from 7 to 9 PM in the high school media center. These meetings are open to the public. It is unclear if there is a time for public comment at the meetings.
  + The bond is needed to address the aging elementary buildings, which have many issues including storage and classroom space, and may need to be rebuilt.
  + A forthcoming community survey about the state of the elementary buildings will be sent by the district soon. This survey will contribute to the information gathering in the bond planning. A previous survey of teachers, staff, and administration was conducted over the summer.
  + There is interest in getting more preschool opportunities into the district, potentially at multiple elementary schools including Pinecrest. Preschool is an equalizer for achievement gaps. The bond will not change grade level configurations.
  + The bond committee will draft a recommendation to the treasury by mid-December. The draft recommendation will include the costs and the subsequent effect on residents’ taxes. The final bond language will go to a community vote in May 2017.
* A separate **Bond Yes Committee** will form soon to help fundraise and promote the bond.
  + This group is separate from the bond committee, although some members may be on both. This group *cannot* include school district employees, as the school district and its employees are not allowed to encourage people to vote for the bond as a conflict-of-interest. The school board and its employees can answer questions about the bond, including on a panel discussion, and are allowed to say what they hope the bond will do if it passes.
  + The Bond Yes Committee is often funded by the architects and builders, who do not have any decision making in the bond process, but who can help promote and advocate for the bond. Members of the Bond Yes Committee do not have to be East Lansing voters, they can be from outside the community (i.e., school of choice parents).
  + The School Board website includes updates on the Bond Committee and the Bond Yes Committee will be discussed on the website in the future.

# Old and New Business

**International Walk to School Day** is tomorrow, October 5. All East Lansing elementary schools are participating, as well as schools in Detroit and others. Flyers just went out this week to students. There are options for everyone to participate. Those who drive their children to school can drop their child(ren) off at designated meeting points, and then they can walk the rest of the way to school. Children who ride the bus or are in before school programming have an opportunity to walk around the school at recess. There are stickers for all children who participate. For more information, contact Regan Quick-Severan.

**The Crazy Fun Color Run** fundraiser is on Friday, October 7. This is a part of Spirit week. The fundraiser goal is to raise $8,000.

* Last year the council earned over $8000. Donations are slowly coming in now and have totaled about $3,000. Donations will be accepted through the end of next week. Social media messages about how the funding is used are being shared on Facebook to encourage more donations.
* The money raised goes to the council to support all of its activities throughout the year, including the family movie nights, the end of the year carnival, the Wharton theaters tickets, the zoo lessons, and the transportation costs for other field trips.
* For the event: two classrooms will participate in the fun run at a time. One class will be in the inflatables at a time. Children receive a white t-shirt to keep as a souvenir and get colored at the end of the run. Parents are welcome to come and watch, and to help out at the event. A 2nd grade mom will take action shots and do class photo at the end of the run. A print of the class phone will be given to the teacher. There are plans to have photography at future events.
* In the future, Playmakers offered to provide music support, but this has to be scheduled several months in advance.
* Historical context, Move and Max organized this a few years ago, but cost a lot of money up front, plus a share of the dollars raised, totaling around $4,500. By running this event through the council, the school saved a lot of money and can afford to have inflatables ($900) and purchase t-shirts ($1,500).

**Facebook** – There is a parent council page and a volunteer network page. We want more parents to be connected and to build up a larger volunteer base.

**Volunteer Night Out** - There is an informal meeting at Reno’s on Friday night, October 7 at 8pm. This may become a monthly night out as a way to get to know more parents and to have informal brainstorming sessions for school activities. All parents and teachers are all invited.

The **School Directory** forms are still coming in. It is not yet decided the directory will be printed and given to parents for free or for a small charge, or if it will be sent over email only. This directory will *not* be posted on the website. This is nearly complete and will be available soon.

An **email list of parents** is being compiled from the directory so that the Parent Council can send information out to families via Mail Chimp, instead of having Ms. Uecker do this. This could be useful in attracting more volunteers for events.

**A “Get to Know Pinecrest”** document is in the works from Amy Webster. This will be shared with families when available. It will include how many children are enrolled, the different programs Pinecrest offers, information about the teaching staff, how many languages are represented at the school, among other interesting things.

**Monthly Family Movie Nights** will take place every month, usually on the 2nd Friday of every month. October’s will be on Thursday, October 13 at 6:30 to accommodate the MSU homecoming game. Each month the movie will be sponsored by a grade, which will help select the movie and will earn half of the proceeds from the movie tickets and concessions. All families with children from any grade is invited to attend every month, all children must be accompanied by an adult. October is sponsored by 5th grade and will be watching Big Hero 6. Tickets are $1. The goal of these events are community building. In the future, there may be a pizza dinner offered.

**Box Tops for Education** is underway. Ms. Holbrook wanted to help get them collected from the teachers every month. Matt Pacer is working on locating a box for each class, and each teacher has received an envelope. The classroom that collects the most Box Tops for Education by March will receive a Pizza Party.

# Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by Katie Van Dorn, Secretary