

**High Plain Elementary
September PTO Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2016**

Members Present:

Stephanie Lenzi, Joanna Yianopoulos, Lauren Jones, Maureen Hnat, Marika Lyons, Pamela Lathrop, Anda Van Buren, Jessica Faulise, Meg McLaughlin, Gigi Tamory, Geetha Ramani, Marlene Genovese, Maha Ganesh

• **General Discussion:**

Stephanie Lenzi - Welcome and introductions.

• **Goals 2016/17:** Increase meeting attendance. More active recruitment of volunteers. Engaging the teachers/staff more. Possible idea is to have Stephanie attend a staff meeting and speak.

• **Updates:** Kindergarten play date went very well.

Teacher breakfast - Romi Peck did a great job organizing the event.

Back to school picnic - great attendance and successful evening.

PTO table at the K12 open house was a big hit. Lots of new volunteers from the sign up sheets.

Next year - possibly an OWL table, Spirit Wear and Direct Donations.

• **Food Rescue Program - Geetha Rao, Gigi Tamory**

HPE has been actively recycling for 3 years and has recently been reinforced by the Food Rescue Program. There are currently five parents volunteering to help the kids recycle properly at lunch, each taking a day.

They need an additional 3-5 more volunteers. The FRP has set up a sign up genius to accept new volunteers.

Future ideas: Educational information - possibly an assembly? Replace water bubblers with bottle filling station in schools. Pairing up with Adventures in Learning for a possible educational assembly.

Need a refrigerator to store left over food for Neighbors in Need. Pam Lathrop suggested possible ways to raise the external funds. A fundraiser selling water bottles, backpacks and waterproof name labels.

• **PTO Blast** this week should include: Dates for fall carnival 10/28 5-8 p.m. and date for fall carnival meeting - 6/23/16.

• **Adventures in Learning** - Juliett Correll-Wright In charge of school assemblies for the second year. Assemblies are paid for by the PTO - approximately \$10K. Last year assemblies included: Museum of Science, Farm to factory, Day in life of deaf/blind person, and RobSurette - Legos. Needs volunteers. K,1, 4th needs help.

Switch up sign up sheets to include Adventure in Learning. Volunteers that will come to the event who can possibly meet and greet the speakers.

Have volunteers bring a camera and take pictures.

Be kind theme - kind to the earth.

What is the town wide assembly this year?

- **Fall Carnival**

Letting go of Charleston Wrap. Expanding fall festival as major fund raiser for the fall.

Date: Friday night the 28th, 5-8 p.m. chosen over Saturday with the hopes of a larger attendance. Date for fall carnival meeting: Next Friday 9/23

- **Ideas for Fall Carnival:**

Jail house where you have to pay to get out. Ghostbusters sing along. Cotton candy. Costumes. Tickets buy when you get here. Small admission ticket price. \$15. 00. Charge for food. Goal 6K.

Rent Lights for outside. Dismiss from front instead of cafeteria. Pizza available. Send the date out ASAP. Popcorn machine.

- **Social Media** - Marlene Genovese.

Facebook, Twitter. Mention new phone numbers on Facebook account. Pictures on account.

- **Pasta Palooza** - sign up sheet at open house.

Ideas to recruit a more diverse crowd to the PTO. Change the name of events such as father/ daughter dance, Halloween. Committee sign up sheets clearly stating that all are welcome to volunteer at any and all events. Eliminating names of chairs on sheets to prevent confusion that event is full.

Mahar Ganesh going to look into Dropbox.

Next Meeting will be October 21 at 9am in cafeteria