

**Holland Township PTO**  
**Minutes of Monthly Meeting**  
**November 15, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Kara Cobb, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Kara Cobb welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then announced that we have had a very successful fall in terms of fundraising and thanked all members for their extremely generous donations. Through the collection of membership dues, donations, notepad sales, Kid Stuff Coupon Book sales, School Store sales, and with our projected Haunted Hayride revenue, we've raised just under \$13,000 so far this year! Kara Cobb announced that this year the PTO will be focusing on items and events that students will find fun and exciting, beginning with improving recess for both elementary and middle school grades.

**Secretary's Report:** Kara Cobb opened the floor for discussion of the September minutes. No discussion. Kerry Favereaux made a motion to accept the September 2017 minutes. Christina Piluso seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kara Cobb opened the floor for discussion of September and October Treasurer and Budget Reports. Jess Theesfeld made a motion to accept the September and October Treasurer and Budget Reports. Deenie Totten seconded the motion, and the reports were unanimously approved.

Kara Cobb reported that based on the success of this year's alternative fundraiser, as well as KidStuff books, the School store, Notepad sales and the Shoparoo app, we are proposing an increase in the Get Moving line item from \$500 to \$2,000. Replacement balls and bouncy bands were already purchased at \$489.43 under this line item. Additional funds will allow us to replace more broken exercise balls, purchase additional bouncy bands for more desks, and have a reserve for future purchases for the remainder of the school year. Heather Williams made a motion to increase the Get Moving line item from \$500 to \$2,000. Kelly Jordan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Kara Cobb proposed to increase the Recess Equipment line item from \$5,500 to \$8,500. Gaga pit was already purchased at \$4,320.06 under this line item. Breakdown of possible additional purchases to be included under Recess Equipment: · Painting hopscotch, four-square and other games on both the elementary blacktop and upper level blacktop for middle school. (\$1,000) · Purchase of a shed to store middle school recess equipment ONLY IF we cannot use the building space in between the BOE office and garages. (\$1,000) (split with BOE) · Purchase hooks/shelves/bins to organize the space. · Purchase games/equipment for middle school recess including corn hole, volleyball set, hockey set, basketballs, frisbee, and whiffle ball set. (\$1,000) · Purchase a set of balls in a mesh bag for 15 elementary classrooms (\$1,000) · Balance of funds to be reserved for future recess purchases for the remainder of the school year.

Discussion followed regarding indoor recess. It was decided that unfortunately at this time there is not a practical alternative to the current indoor recess procedures due to lack of physical space.

Kerry Favereaux made a motion to increase the Recess Equipment line item from \$5,500 to \$8,500. Ann Harvey seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

## **COMMITTEES:**

**Assembly Committee:** Alyssa Kries reported for Cristy Wish that we had a successful elementary character/ anti-bullying assembly on October 11 with "The NED Show." In line with the PTO's effort to do less fundraising, a decision was made to pay for "The NED Show" (\$1400) outright instead of using the company's pay-it-forward model. Paying for the assembly out of our budget also allowed us to buy a yo-yo with the NED message (never give up, encourage others, do your best) for each child in K-4, which delighted our students. Hunterdon Prevention will be meeting with our middle schoolers at a later/ still to be determined date for their character assembly, at an approximate cost of \$600.

**Book Fair Committee:** Dawn Godown reported that the fall Book Fair was held during the week of October 19<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup> and the kids loved the Wild West theme. Family Night was held on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm in the elementary gym and families enjoyed having the author visit. Kara Cobb thanked the committee for the hard work and long hours that they put into the Book Fair. Dawn Godown reported that the committee is researching other companies and is not completely satisfied with Scholastic. She went on to explain that Scholastic continually sends the same books, many of which are hard cover and therefore rather expensive. The Book Fair committee is considering using Usborne or a different company for future book fairs and reported that sales from the fall book fair were down approximately \$1500. Typically revenue from the fall book fair is approximately \$10,000 but was \$8,497 this time. Kara Cobb reported that the committee is also considering changing the date of the fall Book Fair to early December to avoid bombarding families with too many PTO events at the start of the school year (Membership, Kid Stuff Coupon Books, School Store, etc.). The committee is also considering moving the spring book fair to the end of May or first week of June. Families will then be encouraged to purchase their summer reading books at the book fair.

**Bulletin Board Committee:** Heather Williams reported that the PTO board is currently decorated with a Thanksgiving theme, but will be updated for the winter holidays soon.

**Family Events Committee:** Alyssa Kries reported that the next family event will take place on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. This Holiday Event is open to all Holland Twp School families for free. Families will be invited to decorate holiday cards for local nursing home residents, write letters to Santa, paint and create holiday ornaments, make holiday bead bracelets, and more. All supplies will be provided. Deb Sencher asked if Family Zumba would be returning in the winter and Alyssa Kries confirmed that they are planning to hold another Family Zumba night in February.

### **Fundraising Committee**

a. Kara Cobb reported for Stephanie Glacken that approximately \$2,450 was brought in through the Kid Stuff Coupon Books sales and only a minimal number of books remained to be returned.

b. Kara Cobb reported that the Great Lakes Scrip gift card flyers went home on Monday for Elementary students and on Tuesday for Middle School students. One paper order form was sent home with the youngest child in each family. Parents can indicate which gift card they want to purchase and send the order back in with payment. Orders are due back Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to receive the gift cards in time for the holidays. The PTO will earn between 2.5% and 14% depending on what gift card is purchased. Kara also mentioned that she spoke with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent who is in charge of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance committee this year and she was extremely grateful that the PTO will be contributing to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance again this year. There is currently approximately \$1000 left in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance committee's budget from last year and the dance typically costs around \$3000.

c. Deb Hirst reported that the Holland Parks and Rec Haunted Hayride was a big success again this year. They sold out of t-shirts and are planning to make next year's hayride even longer and more exciting. However, in order to do so they will need even more volunteers. Kara Cobb encouraged PTO members to volunteer for this great event again next year.

**Help from Home Committee:** Christina Piluso reported that all Box Tops were submitted and we should expect a check for \$1,000 from our Box Top submissions in December. Classes who brought in the most Box Tops will be rewarded with ice cream parties again this year. Christina Piluso also reminded everyone to continue to use Shoparoo and Amazon Smile when shopping. Deb Croasdale suggested having paperwork regarding Shoparoo at next year's Open House for parents. Christina Piluso reminded everyone to check out the PTO website and especially the Help From Home section.

**Hospitality Committee:** Kara Cobb reminded everyone that the Senior Citizen Luncheon will take place the following day (Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>) and thanked members for volunteering to bake turkeys and pies.

**Membership Committee:** Kara Cobb announced that our membership has increased since last year and we currently have 243 members. Along with membership dues, an additional \$7,065 was donated! Kara Cobb thanked members again for their extremely generous donations.

**Staff Appreciation Committee:** No updates.

**Website Committee:** Kara Cobb reported it's up to date.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Kara Cobb reported that the Girl Scouts' Breakfast with Santa event will take place on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Riegel Ridge Community Center at 9:00 am.

Kara Cobb also reported that she attended the previous night's Holland Park and Rec Committee meeting and there was discussion about bringing back dances for middle school students at Riegel Ridge. Dances would be open to all sending districts and the committee is talking about scheduling a tentative date in March. They are in need of parent volunteers.

Kara Cobb mentioned the idea of a PTO sponsored end of the school year picnic for all PTO members and their families. Discussion followed and it was decided that we will hold off planning the event and instead consider other ideas for end of the year events that can be held right here at HTS. Deb Sencher suggested an ice cream social.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Debbie Croasdale reported on behalf of the HTEA:

a. NORWESCAP Food Drive running until next Tuesday, so that canned goods and nonperishables can be picked up and delivered to families in time for Thanksgiving.

b. Senior Citizen Luncheon tomorrow (Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>).

c. Holiday Store is coming (Dates to be determined).

d. This year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school band concert will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

e. Giving Tree tags are still available. If interested, please contact TJ Hirsch.

Meg Simini asked about students whose families cannot afford snack. Discussion followed and it was suggested that she contact TJ Hirsch.

Deenie Totten proposed the compilation of a list of guidelines and expectations for room parents to read and sign at the beginning of the school year, so room parents know exactly what is expected and can be held accountable. Discussion followed and it was decided to search records for the original room parent guidelines document and update as necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:14 pm. Next meeting will be on December 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm.