

# Arnold Elementary PTA Board and Committee Meeting

December 3, 2014

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Arnold Elementary Media Center

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order / Welcome

### 2. Approval of September 23, 2014 Minutes

### 3. President's Report:

- a. Government representation update:
  - i. Our new County Council representative, Michael Peroutka, was sworn in this week. He is openly against funding for public schools.
  - ii. Our school board representative resigned so there is an open seat.
- b. Reminder that we have a video camera available to tape school events. The Kindergarten Thanksgiving performance was recorded and there are plans to record the Winter Concert and the spring Kindergarten performance.
- c. The President recommends that any PTA Chairs and Board Members who are planning to leave their post at the end of this year should begin talking to people who may be interested in replacing them. The spring will come fast after the holidays.
- d. Change in procedure: Cash will start to go directly to the office then be distributed to room parents.

### 4. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Ending available net cash at the end of November was \$19,562.
- b. Our fundraising goal was exceeded for the Walk-a-Thon.
- c. May need to raise prices for Enrichment classes or negotiate lower vendor fees.
- d. PTA-sponsored autumn cleanup will take place as soon as the leaves are done falling.
- e. Other costs incurred:
  - i. Paid subscription installments for the Media Center
  - ii. Funded the PB&J fund for kids who forget to bring their lunch or money.
  - iii. Funded allotments to each class
  - iv. Funded the planetarium for STEM night
- f. For Capital Projects, 7 or 8 area rugs have been requested for the school. The plan is to buy some now and some later in the school year just in case something else comes up that is more pressing for Capital Projects funds.
- g. The PTA tax return was submitted and the charitable contribution requirements have been met.
- h. The Treasurer requests that fundraiser approval forms be submitted directly to the school with a copy to her for the PTA files.
- i. The President gave the Treasurer a "Thanks-A-Latte" for all of her considerable work managing the PTA's finances.

## 5. Committee Reports:

- a. **Amazon Smile:** The PTA now has an Amazon Smile account where .5% of all purchases made by those who use the Smile site is returned to the Arnold Elementary PTA. It is simple to link the Smile Account to your Amazon account and you only have to do it once.
- b. **Holiday Secret Shop:** Currently scheduling people to work during the sale, as well as help with set-up and take-down. The gifts have already been purchased and new supplies and decorations have been ordered.
- c. **Snowflake Dance:** The dance is February 20, with a snow date of March 5.
- d. **Box Tops:** We have raised \$800 so far this year.
- e. **Walk-a-Thon:** This year the event was moved up to the field, which was an improvement. The only cost was new stamps – decided there was no need to purchase water because the kids were coming from lunch out to recess and could get water when they went back inside. One idea for a theme next year was to do “Jungle Walk” and kids could bring “Chimp Change” to bump up funds raised.
- f. **Wellness:** Would like to raise some money to do something healthy for the teachers, like a salsa-making class. One thought was to do a Spirit Friday where kids could come in workout/sports gear and bring a dollar to support the Wellness Committee.
- g. **Fall Festival:** The Fall Festival went really well with some changes. The biggest problem, however, was a low volunteer rate, with many teachers and parents having to work their booths for the entire three hours. We may need to scale back next year to make sure there is enough volunteer participation to cover all of the activities.
- h. **Enrichment:** Spring enrichment will be scaled back to 8 classes in the spring because it has gotten too unwieldy and too much work for the chairs.
- i. **Breakfast with Santa:** All ready to go, but sending out a sign-up genius to get more volunteers to help during the morning of the event.
- j. **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion:** Mary Thompson was named Chair, with assistance from others. She will be contacting parents to get ready for an initial meeting after the holidays. It is recommended that there be more communication between the parents and the teachers/staff this year regarding planned promotion events.

## 6. Principal's Report:

- a. The Principal is urging everyone to fill out the survey sent out by the county because this year there is a section regarding quality of the school facilities.
- b. The Board of Education wants to do a new study in 2015 to evaluate and rank schools based on construction needs. The last one was in 2006. The fear is that our ranking will change and hurt our chances for construction funding.
- c. Because it is on the list to be rebuilt, the County is unwilling to pay for security upgrades for AES. There has been an increase in “smash & grabs” in the AES parking lot and other local schools so parents are urged to cover up valuables.
- d. Parents need to keep up the pressure on the County to address the school building issues. A lot of “noise” will influence the County Council.

## 7. Announcements:

- a. Next PTA Meeting: **Wednesday, February 25 @ 6:00 pm**
- b. Upcoming Events:
  - i. Saturday, December 13: Holiday Breakfast and Secret Shop
  - ii. Friday, February 20: Snowflake Dance

## 8. Meeting Adjourned