

Minutes for the SMPTO Meeting held at

IFEC Library on February 11, 2016

I. Call to order/Welcome

- The meeting was called to order by the PTO Co-President, Stacey Knavel, at 7:00 PM.
- Introductions were made by the PTO Board, the Principals and meeting attendees.
 - a. Those in attendance included: Stacey Knavel (PTO Co-President), Jennifer Metz (Secretary), Kim Hiles (Co-Vice President of Rice), Julie Snyder (Co-Vice President of Rice), Rachel Andreoli (IFEC Co-Vice President) and Mr. Boley (Principal of Rice). Shawn Knavel (Co-President), Melanie Reifsteck (Co-VP of IFEC), Suzanne Shriner (Treasurer) and Mrs. Reed (IFEC Principal) were unable to attend this meeting. We had 9 additional people attend the meeting.
- Those who attended the meeting were asked to sign in on the attendance sheet.

II. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

- Stacey Knavel made a motion to approve the January 2016 minutes. The board members who were present unanimously approved the minutes from the January 2016 meeting. Please note: Copies of the meeting minutes are posted on the PTO website at www.smpto.com.

III. Principal Reports/School Board Representative

Mr. Boley - Rice Report

- Mr. Boley reported that they will be hosting a new Pre-K program at Rice for select students starting February 22nd. The room is set up and ready to go. Transportation will be provided for those children in the program if needed. Currently, 12 South Middleton area students have been identified for the program (the max is 15 students).
- Classrooms are gearing up for their Valentine Parties which will be held on 2/12/16.
- In March, a local author, Mr. Novak, will be visiting Rice and speaking to students.
- Kindergarten registration will be held in early April. They will offer online registration as well.

Mrs. Reed - IFEC Report

- Mrs. Reed was unable to attend this meeting so a report for IFEC was not given.

School Board Representative

- Tom Merlie, Vice-President of the School Board, attended this PTO meeting to provide information regarding the PTO's portion in the purchase of playground equipment for IFEC upon completion of the construction. Mr. Merlie provided visual and printed materials explaining what items the funds provided by the PTO would purchase. There had been an

agreed upon set of equipment by the PTO and school district members at the time and the company contracted to provide the equipment presented different items as their “equivalent”. The current school board and school representatives worked with the contracting companies to procure the originally agreed upon items or very similar alternatives. The PTO provided \$14,500 toward the purchase of playground equipment in January 2015 so that future SMPTO boards would not be left with the financial responsibility of meeting this commitment. After the presentation, someone inquired about who would be responsible for maintaining the equipment. Mr. Merlie confirmed that the school district would be responsible for the maintenance of all the playground equipment. The PTO should be provided with a letter from the school district acknowledging donations made to the district by the PTO and how those donated items will be maintained. Jen Varner made a motion to approve the items presented in this playground equipment proposal for the IFEC playground. Karen Rhodes seconded the motion. All those in attendance at this PTO meeting agreed to approve the motion.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

- Suzanne Shriner was unable to be present at this meeting and was unable to provide the Treasurer's Report. Next month, she will present the February and March budget and account information.

V. Correspondence

- We received a thank you note from Mrs. Hinkle’s class for the Kohl’s Cares items that were donated to the PTO from Kohl’s.

VI. Chair/Committee Reports

- Box Tops-** Jamie Michler, our chairperson, was unable to attend this meeting but the next contest will be held through March 18th and the prize is a classroom pizza party! *Please utilize the forms provided as they are easier to count the box tops and credit students/classrooms for the contests. ALSO, please make sure the box tops are NOT expired.* PLEASE make sure that you include the student's name, classroom and teacher on any box tops submission so s/he may be credited appropriately for their submissions. Also, be sure to check out the box top website at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> Good luck and enjoy clipping box tops!!
- Labels for Education -** Suzanne Shriner (chairperson) was unable to attend this meeting to provide an update. Please check back next month for an update. Unfortunately, we were informed that this program is being phased out after this school year. So if you have any labels for education around your house, send them in now! *Please remember to clip your Labels. They are on items like Post cereals, Pepperidge Farm products, Campbell’s Soup, Pop Secret popcorn, Swanson products, Spaghetti-Os, V8 products and more. They never expire! There are boxes in the lobbies of Rice and IFEC where you can drop your labels. Be sure to indicate your student’s name, grade and teacher so they can get credit for the contests.*

- c. **Entenmann's Little Bites** – Shannon Barr has offered to set-up collection of the Entenmann's Little Bites packaging pouches for recycling. When they are collected and submitted for recycling, it can earn cash for the school district. Shannon was unable to attend the meeting to provide a report on the project this month.
- d. **Groovy Movie for IFEC** – The second Groovy Movie will be held on Friday, February 19, 2016. The final Groovy Movie will be held on Friday, April 22nd at IFEC.

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business

- **May Fair 2016** – Kim Hiles and Julie Snyder reported on the status of planning May Fair 2016. Sharon Brandt has agreed to be the new Silent Auction Chair. We will be looking at seeking the assistance of the classroom parents to help coordinate the donations for the silent auction baskets that are done by classrooms in each grade. It was asked if we would be offering the Disney Hopper Passes again this year and the response was no because the application process was too cumbersome and we were never able to sell them for very much.
- **Bubbling Over for 2016-17** – Next year there will be two grades that will be Bubbling Over to IFEC (the second and third grade classes). Because of that, we may need to consider other options for these two grades rather than what we have done traditionally (which is bowling and roller skating). We may need to look at having the fifth grade Forge Ahead day be bowling and skating and do something completely different for 2nd and 3rd.
- **Teacher grants – VanGo** – This is a mobile art van that Mrs. Reed has brought to the PTO's attention as a possible assembly/grant. The cost for this program is \$1500 for three days at IFEC. Mr. Boley expressed that he did not plan to schedule this program at Rice this year but will check it out at IFEC if the request is approved and scheduled. During this discussion a parent express concern over what appeared to be an uneven number of grant requests coming from IFEC over Rice. Stacey explained that grants are considered by both schools when submitted but very few have come in from Rice recently. She expressed that the board is aware that this is an issue and that she had discussed it with Mr. Boley and the Vice Presidents of Rice. However, the board doesn't want to turn down any request, as long as it is reasonable and there are funds available just, because it came from one school versus another. Someone noted that in prior years there were more requests from Rice.

Some ideas that were floated regarding potential grants for Rice:

- ◇ Kat Seiber expressed that she feels additional technology would be beneficial to Rice. Mr. Boley agreed.
- ◇ Karen Rhodes offered to provide a food sampling event for students to expose them to different food options.
- ◇ The PTO has asked the principals to try to come up with additional ideas for programming and purchases. Teachers have also been asked to think about new ideas.

- ◇ Mr. Yinger has previously requested to look into having another music type assembly this year. The funds have been set aside for this possible request.
- ◇ The question was raised about whether we may need to plan for a last day of school assembly for Rice again this year. Mr. Boley was not sure but will look into this and get back to the PTO.

IX. Announcements

- Stacey reminded everyone that several positions on the PTO board will be open for the next school year. The positions include President and Co-Vice Presidents of Rice (two positions). These positions are for two year terms. The Co-Vice President of IFEC (one position for one year) will be appointed when the current VP resigns from her position. The slate for the nominees needs to be presented at the March PTO meeting so anyone who is interested in any of these positions should see a board member for more information as soon as possible.
- **Mobile Ag Van** – The Mobile Ag Van will be coming to Rice the week of March 14-18. The Time to Sign Up is now available on our PTO site.

X. Open Floor/ Miscellaneous -

- None

XI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned 8:10 PM.
- Respectfully submitted for approval at the next PTO meeting by
Jennifer Metz, SMPTO Secretary

Our next PTO meeting will be held on March 10, 2016.
Check our website for additional information about meetings and events.
www.smpto.com