Minutes for the SMPTO Meeting held at IFEC Library on May 7, 2015

1. **Call to order/Welcome**

* The Meeting was called to order by the PTO Co-President, Stacey Knavel, at 7:05 PM
* No introductions were done this evening due to a presentation by representatives from South Middleton School District regarding the proposed budget for 2015-2016.
  1. Those in attendance included: Shawn and Stacey Knavel (PTO Co-Presidents), Jennifer Varner (Treasurer), Jennifer Metz (Secretary), Julie Snyder (Co-Vice President of Rice), Mrs. Reed (IFEC Principal), Mr. Boley (Rice Principal) and Mrs. Spisak (Vice-Principal of both elementary schools). We had 11 additional people attend the meeting. Kerrie Truax (IFEC Vice President) and Kim Hiles (Co-Vice President of Rice) were unable to attend the meeting.
* Those who attended the meeting were asked to sign in on the attendance sheet.
* The formal portion of the SMPTO meeting was delayed for the School District Presentation on the proposed Budget. See the end of this document for a brief summary. For more information, please visit the school district's website.
* THANK YOUs: Stacey began the formal meeting by thanking all the volunteers and faculty who helped make May Fair 2015 a great success. She thanked Julie Snyder and Kim Hiles for organizing the events activities. A huge thank you to Mr. Boley for all of his help both Friday and Saturday (all day). Thank you to all the committee chairs for the great Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Book/DVD Sale, Talent Show…. Thank you to all the teachers who volunteered to be part of the Teacher raffle. In addition, thank you to Melanie Reifsteck, Suzanne Shriner, Rachel Andreoli, Kat Seiber and Stacey Plante for all your help in organizing Teacher Appreciation week meals, gifts and events. Everyone's hard work for these two events is tremendously appreciated!

1. **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting**

* Jen Varner made a motion to approve the April 2015 minutes, Julie Snyder seconded it. The board members who were present unanimously approved the minutes from the April 2015 meeting. Copies of the meeting minutes are posted on the PTO website at www.smpto.com .

1. **Principal Reports/School Board Representative**

**Mr. Boley - Rice Report**

* Mr. Boley also recognized the success of May Fair and thanked everyone who helped coordinate May Fair and who volunteered their time that weekend. He also thanked Yellow Breeches Middle School for allowing us to use their facility for this event. In addition, he thanked the custodians who were there on both Friday and Saturday helping with the event.
* For the past two years, the Cantata was held on the same night as May Fair which created some challenges with parking. This year, there was also a baseball game and the jazz band was invited to play at the Cantata. Mr. Boley noted that they will be planning to hold the Cantata on a different night next year.
* Many field trips are coming up. Kindergarten went to the Hershey Experience. First Grade will be going to Zoo America. Second Grade will be going the Indian Echo Caverns and the Hershey Story. Third Grade will be participating in the Underground Railroad tour.
* Bubbling Over day for Third Grade will be on May 22nd. The students will spend the day going bowling and roller skating. Ryan Hiles won the t-shirt design contest!
* Field day is scheduled for May 28th and 29th for First through Third grades. Kindergarten will be participating in Beach Day soon.

**Mrs. Reed - IFEC Report**

* Mrs. Reed thanked everyone for the great May Fair.
* She also thanked everyone who assisted with the Teacher Appreciation week events.
* Fourth Grade will be holding their "Recorder Share" on May 8th (this is a program where fourth graders play various songs and sing).
* The Spelling Bee will be in the afternoon of May 8th.
* Third Grade will be visiting IFEC on May 27th. This visit will be modified from years past due to the construction and limited building space.
* Forge Ahead day for Fifth Grade will be on May 28th. This day will be a combination of field day events, swimming in the high school pool, yearbook signing/ ice cream and a Groovy Movie. All activities will be completed by the end of the normal school day.
* The Ag Van is scheduled for the week of June 1st. The Time to Sign up is available (it has since filled).
* They are currently working on interviewing for the job openings at IFEC.

**School Board Representative**

* There were representatives from both the School District and the School Board (Dr. Moyer, Dr. Mancuso, Tina Darchicourt, Mike Berk of the School Board and Corinne Zatkos, an administrative intern at the high school) at this meeting to review the proposed budget for 2015-2016 and how some decisions were made.
* Stacey Knavel encouraged people to attend school board meetings to become aware of planning issues, budget issues, calendar issues, etc. It is also a venue to voice your opinion and concerns.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

* Jennifer Varner provided the Treasurer's Report.
  1. Preliminary income for May Fair 2015: Great Wolf Lodge raffle - $530; Book/DVD sale - $116.75; Tickets - $3,490.50; Bake sale/ pizza - $535.60; Teacher raffle - $198; Silent Auction - $1,612.91 for a total of $6,483.76. This does not include expenses at this time. This is gross income not net income. As compared to previous years totals- 2014 Gross income was $6,660.70 and 2013 Gross income was $7,053.50.
  2. The account balances are as follows - Checking account is $24,535.52; Raffle account is $100; Savings account is $10,014.65.
  3. Our income for the month totaled $8,913.78. Some of the major sources of income included: an ongoing donation from Bubblethon ($23.97); Amazon purchases generating donations ($134.35); funds collected for 1st grade field trip ($1,769.95); Groovy Movie ($263.80 plus a $2 donation); May Fair ($6,669.25 see above for break out); spirit gear sales ($47.94) and interest ($2.52).
  4. Our expenses for the month totaled $14,593.96. Some of the major expenses included: Ag Van "assembly" payment of remaining balance ($1000); teacher grant for Mrs. Snyder ($20.02); 1st grade field trip payment for students and chaperones to Zoo America ($1,819.08); 4th grade field trip to state museum ($865); Kindergarten field trip to Hershey Chocolate world ($1,316.64); paper cutters as new office supplies for both schools ($305.64); Groovy Movie ($6.26); Administrative Assistant day gifts ($40); Teacher conference meals ($22); IFEC book fair ($3,225.87); May Fair expenses ($4,973.45) - this includes payments for the DJ, tent rental, inflatables, prizes, the pony rides/ petting zoo, pizza, balloon twister/ face painting, science table, sign supplies, and popcorn.

1. **Correspondence:** We received thank you notes from Mrs. Vincent and Mrs. Fisler for the meal we provided during Teacher Conference week. We also received one on behalf of the staff and faculty at Rice. Mrs. Bell at IFEC thanked us for the gift card to Caffe 101 (for Administrative Assistant Day). Mr. Boley and Mrs. Spisak sent a note thanking us for May Fair. The staff at Rice thanked us for the new paper cutter the PTO purchased for them and for all of the Teacher Appreciation week events. We received a thank you note from the George family (Crazy Maisey's Ice Cream) for the wonderful May Fair and for having their business be a part of it. Finally, we received a thank you note signed by all of the staff and faculty at Rice for all that the PTO does for the school and students.
2. **Chair/Committee Reports**

* 1. **Box Tops-** Last call for box top submissions! We are in need of a new chairperson to handle the box tops for IFEC. Please let us know if you are interested. ***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.*** 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. More information can be found about box tops on their website at **http://www.boxtops4education.com/ Thank you for all the tops submitted so far!**
  2. **Labels for Education -**  Suzanne shared that we are close to 50%! You can continue to submit labels at any time and they do not expire. The more we collect, the more we can redeem for the schools.
  3. **May Fair 2015 -** The weather was great, the space was great and parking was good. Thank you to everyone who assisted this year and to all the people who attended and enjoyed this wonderful event.

**Drawing for prizes for volunteers:**

* $25 Target gift card - Sue Ferguson
* $25 Giant gift card - Angie Fisher
* $20 Hollabaugh Bros. gift card - Efren Pacheco
* $10 South Side Deli gift certificate - Aliya Waseem
* $10 Applebee's gift certificate - Elizabeth Butler
* $50 Royers gift card - Stacey Plante
* $50 Warm Springs Salon gift card - Cris Knapp

1. **Old Business**

* None

1. **New Business**

* + **THANK YOU!** A huge thank you to Kerrie Truax (outgoing IFEC Vice-President) and Jennifer Varner (outgoing Treasurer) for all of your hard work, great ideas and years of service to this PTO. We will miss you!
  + **June PTO meeting:** Although most years we have not had a June PTO meeting, we would like to have one this year to talk about the PTO budget for 2015-2016. We need to start planning how we will budget money into different categories and consider planning to supplement school budget cuts where we can. Those in attendance at this meeting agreed that the best date to hold this meeting would be **June 2, 2016, at 7 PM at IFEC.** Please note that this is a Tuesday and we normally meet on a Thursday. NOTE: Even if you are not able to attend the meeting, we welcome thoughts and ideas. Please email the board with anything you would like to share - board@smpto.com

1. **Announcements**

* No new announcements at this meeting.

1. **Open Floor/ Miscellaneous** - No new information
2. **Adjournment**

* The meeting adjourned 8:45 PM.
* Respectfully submitted for approval at the next PTO meeting by

Jennifer Metz, SMPTO Secretary

**Our final SMPTO meeting of the year will be**

**on TUESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 2015 at 7 PM at IFEC when we will be**

**discussing the budget for next year.**

**Check our website for additional information about meetings and events.**

**www.smpto.com**

**Summary of School District Proposed Budget planning for 2015-2016**

Please visit the school district website for the full presentation at http://www.smsd.us/files/filesystem/PRESENTATION%202015-16%20final%20revised.pdf

Dr. Moyer began the presentation. He indicated that they are providing regular updates on the school district website. The focus of the presentation at this meeting was to share information regarding the preliminary budget plans for 2015-2016.

Tina Darchicort began the budget presentation. The district faces several challenges. Pensions are increasing by $800,000. Health care has increased by 11%. Cyber school/charter school tuition can cost $10,000 per student and potentially up to $20,000 per student with an IEP. Special Education costs are also significant.

Why is the district renovating IFEC when there are budget cuts? There is actually a "zero increase" overall. The payments have been extended, not increased and we also have bonds to access for funds.

Dr. Mancuso addressed the plan for "blended learning/one to one learning". They plan to repurpose funds that had been earmarked in the budget to replace technology. The plan is start "blended" learning where each student in the high school will receive a lap top (with a carrying case) on lease for the four years they are in high school. These lap tops will be available to take home and students with their own lap tops will be allowed to use their own. Older lap tops will be moved to the middle school to be utilized in classrooms. Teachers will be given training on utilizing this technology in the classroom. This is not to replace teachers. This will be an opportunity for teaching with technology enhancements. Teachers have been out at other schools to see how this approach has been applied at those schools. Some schools have done it well and some have not. The annual budget has a plan for replacements. Eventually, the plan will be to buy only for the incoming grade of freshmen.

Dr. Moyer handed out a draft of "The Perspective" (the school district newsletter). The final copy will be emailed to everyone in the school district once complete. They also plan to place numerous copies in the community at a variety of locations. The township building will also have copies.

Tina Darchicort addressed the school district $1.5 million deficit. Currently, the first way to address the deficit is to not fill some retiring and/or resigned teacher positions. In addition, the district spoke with the school principals about ways to reduce their budgets. (Some of those cuts may fall upon the PTO to supplement.) The Act 1 Index assesses the level of tax increase for the district. This year the school board agreed to increase to the full 1.9%. This may be slightly more next year because the district is allowed to seek "exceptions" to raise this rate higher. It was too late in the year to seek an "exception" for this year’s upcoming budget. This 1.9% increase will bring in about $311,510. The average household increase will be about $37 per year (that is based on the average home price being $198,000). At this point, if the school board had approved the index increase for the past 9 years, we would have approximately $3.5 million in additional revenue.

If the Governor's budget passes, we could get an additional $200,000. If not, the district may have to dip into the fund balance.

If you have questions, concerns or thoughts about all of this, please attend school board meetings to hear discussions and plans and share your opinions.