

**BUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PTA BOARD MEETING  
January 13, 2014 at Conley's Pub  
Minutes taken by Claudia Haydon**

**Present:**

Claudia Haydon  
Barbara Bulfoni  
Maria Samson  
Cara Cogliano  
Miriam Lapson

Andrea Press  
Frank Dill  
Mike McAllister  
Laura Vander Hart  
Karen Gutterman

**PTA BUSINESS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Cara, seconded by Barbara. The minutes from the December 2013 PTA meeting were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (presented by Laura)

- **Professional Development:** Our goal for the year was \$2,000 and we have raised \$1,985 so far, \$500 of which was a matching grant.
- **Budget:** There is general consensus that the new budget format is fine.
- **Membership:** Our goal was to have 200 members in the PTA this year. We have exceed that with 205 to date.
- **Upcoming General Meeting Ideas:** There is interest in having April's general session cover strategies for student anxieties and self-esteem. Other suggestions included iPad/app safety. Mike will check with a Technology Specialist. It was decided that the February meeting will be about Internet safety and Mike will also offer a tour of the Butler attic space: we hope these topics will help draw some new faces.
- **Volunteers Needed:** We still need volunteers for the 4th Grade Moving On Ceremony and BASEP coordination. We will publicize in the newsletter.
- **Auction 2014-2015:** We are seeking donations for auction items. Cara shared her past experiences and said she'd rather not take full responsibility for this, but offered to help initiate a new person into the role.

**2. IN REVIEW** (presented by Barbara)

- **Movie Night:** Barbara reported that it was a success and well-attended, with an increase over last year in money spent on concessions.
- **Art Show:** A very large attendance this year, but next year we'll want to avoid scheduling the art show the same weekend as the treelighting.
- **Reflections Entry Deadline:** We had 6 entries from 5 students: 4 in the visual arts, 1 in literature, and 1 in music. Entries are on to judges January 18. Participation was down from last year, when we had 10 entries. It was suggested that we tie Reflections into the art show in 2014-2015 to identify candidates.

**3. UPCOMING EVENTS** (presented by Laura)

- **Conley's Night:** We made \$268 in raffle proceeds at tonight's meeting.
- **Ice Skating:** The time has been changed to 7:30p.
- **Library Night and Bake Sale:** We're on track for February 6. We'll have a Valentine's Day theme and add a bake sale to benefit the Crocodile River assembly on February 14. We still need folks to bake as well as on-site volunteers.
- **Math and Science Night:** Julie Crocket is seeking volunteers with experience in STEM fields.
- **4th Grade Moving On:** A date can't be set yet until we have a better sense of when the last day of school will be - in flux due to snow days. We are circulating sign up sheets for volunteers.

#### 4. ONGOING PTA BUSINESS

- **In-School Enrichment:** Barbara heard that the field trip to The Nutcracker was a success. The second grade organizer did a good job.
- **Ways and Means:** Maria shared that there is no update on grants at this time other than that timing has been tricky and Belmont is often not eligible for certain grants that are targeting more underserved communities with greater percentages of Title 1 students.
- **After-School Enrichment:** Barbara reported 198 enrollments from 131 students and many classes are full. The most popular classes so far this year have been Lego, Math League, Splat and Chess.
- **Box Tops:** The next collection will be at the end of January. Our most recent check was \$1,500!

**5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.** Mike shared that Phase II of the playground renovation may be made possible with support from community preservation funds. We are waiting to hear the status of our \$64,000 grant request. The Winnbrook received \$100,000 last year for their capital expenses. No bidding is needed if individual expenses are under \$10,000 each. We hope to hear in the springtime. Conley's has donated benches to be included in our "outdoor classroom." We are seeking participants in the Student Council and will promote this opportunity in an upcoming newsletter.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT.** Julie was absent from the meeting, but the budget was circulated with no questions from the group. It was noted that income from school photos is up this year.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Miriam asked that folks please send updates, fresh content ideas to her for our Facebook page.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.