

Harelson PTO  
PTO minutes  
October 22, 2018. 6:29pm  
Location: Harelson Staff Lounge

Meeting was called to order at 6:29pm by PTO President, Mandy Quelland.

Attendees: Mandy Quelland, Molly DeCastro, Megan George, Lizabeth Loehr, Stephanie Neese, Kelly, Payne, Su Lin Trepanitis, David Payne, Alexis Paterson, Vanessa Aldecoa

Staff: Jason Weaver, Angela Sieminski, Pamela Lettera

#### Introductions

Members of the board, staff and all attendees introduced themselves and stated the grade levels of their kids attending Harelson, staff and parents also introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: Secretary, Lizabeth Loehr, presented minutes from the August 27, 2018 meeting. PTO meeting. Mandy Quelland made the motion to approve minutes. Megan George seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### Plusotix Vision Screener

Su-Lin Trepanitis, a retired nurse and volunteer presented the Plusoptix vision equipment that the PTO purchased for our school last school year. The company provides free software updates. You can load the student roster onto the machine, screen and then download it back into the computer. The Plusoptix can screen the eyes without the need for a child to add their input. All the children do is look at the hexagon shape and the screener will read the results directly from the eyes. It takes a couple of seconds. Su Lin demonstrated how the equipment works by performing a screening on the principal, Jason Weaver. He passed the vision screening, and it beeped in less than a second after it had focused on his eyes. The screening print out was passed around for everyone to see. It lets you know right away whether the individual being screened passed or not. Unless the school roster is uploaded, there is no name on the screening, there is only the print out for each kid.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was presented by Mandy Quelland. Bobcat Wear we made more money, we lost money on the Movie Night, we came in under budget on the Ice Cream Social. Further report included in the Direct Giving report detailed below.

#### Direct Giving

Direct Giving was more than what we were expecting. We ended up with 40% participation, which is more than what we had last year. We are getting more matching funds this year from parents from Raytheon and other companies. Mrs. Tate was the winning class at 67% participation for K-3. Mrs. Nystedt had 44% participation as the winning class from 4-6. Those classes will receive Dilly Bars. We will keep a running tally of continued contributions during the course of this year.

#### Old Business:

#### Ice Cream Social:

The Dairy Queen was so wonderful in giving us a good deal on the Dilly Bars, loaded the car for us, donated some Dilly Bars. There were quite a few Cross kids that came to help volunteer. We need to come up with a new way to hand out ice cream that will be more stream lined. We had 200 bars left over, but we ran out of water. The Cross helpers came to help set up for the Ice Cream Social, but did not help during the event. We need to have more helpers during the event.

#### Movie Night:

There was a decrease in attendance at the movie night this year. This year we got a movie license that all the teachers will be able to use at school since we got the license for the school for the school year. In the future, we may need to use a newer movie. There was a lot of leftover pizza. Licenses cost more if it is Disney, and it is more difficult to have a movie outside in terms of legalities.

#### Chrome books:

We were able to purchase 15 chrome books for the first grade classrooms for the kids to complete their Waterford sessions and other computer based learning programs and opportunities.

#### New Business:

##### PTO Bylaws Approval:

Molly DeCastro motioned to approve the PTO Bylaws and Lizabeth Loehr seconded the motion. Motion procedures were discussed and the motion was approved and passed.

##### Boys Bash

The Boys event is scheduled for November 3, 2018 from 9:00 to 11:00am at Top Golf. The RSVPs are due this Friday and those are coming in nicely. There will be extra activities as not everyone can golf at once. Wilbur will be coming to Top Golf. We just got word this week. The kids will create buttons and a raffle. There is a \$500 sponsorship and the activities do not have a cost up front. We need to send out reminders on Facebook and through Jill Neubert in the office. We need to get the cash box from Jill.

##### New Recycling Program:

Vanessa Aldecoa from a Girls' Scout troop presented a recycling proposal for the school. The troop had been in contact with Waste Management. For \$200.84 plus shipping would total \$254.84 for the 40 recycling bins for the school. The troop proposes that they can split this cost with the PTO. The troop has made posters about what goes into the bins and what does not. The girls made a video about the recycling effort and what to recycle. The girls from the troop would go around the classrooms to collect the recycling for Waste Management to pick up. This will be discussed in the school announcements. Jason thanked the troop and agreed that this would be a great opportunity for our school. Jason has asked the PTO to contribute the \$131.28 alongside the Girl Scouts. The board approved the request.

##### Science Fair/Night:

February 7, 2019 is the night planned for our Science Night. There is a Science Fair committee that will be working on contacting people for the Science night. The planetarium has already been booked. There are various clubs, organizations and people from the U of A that have been contacted. Lindsay Wong and Shauna Thomas have helped with collaborating with Angela Sieminski, Angie Tierney and Robyn Yewell with this and in contacting people. A packet has been put together to send home with the kids to provide information for the kids' science fair projects to put in the teachers' boxes. Some parents requested that the science fair be mandatory to ensure that students participate in the science fair.

Jason brought up the value of the planning involved with a project, however, it can also present challenges and that the staff needs to discuss the balance. The night of the event the PTO does food and will provide drinks, food, and either pizza or possibly catering. This science fair is expected to be bigger than last year's event. Not all of the people have confirmed yet, but there have been some confirmations.

Funfest/ Silent Auction planning:

Megan George reports that we still need a committee for the Silent Auction. There are some people who have mentioned that they will help volunteer at the event, we still need to determine if they can be on the committee.

Principal's Message:

Jason brought attention to his letter regarding the school letter grade of having a grade of A. Congratulations! November 14<sup>th</sup> from 3-4pm there will be a workshop with Lauren McEntire from the district to go over the different digital programs that our kids can be working on at home from what they are doing at school in order to support their learning. Jason is hoping to offer something regarding internet safety for both our kids as well as for our knowledge. The kids access and knowledge of technology is coming in at younger ages and quicker than before. It is rather scary how easily our information can be gained from seemingly innocent things such as posting a picture. Jason does not yet have a ready resource for such a presentation, but is hoping to open the discussion and begin looking into. Parents are in agreement that they would like some more information for internet safety for our children. A discussion of social networking and bullying was brought up during the conversation as well. Jason thanked the PTO and parents for our involvement in supporting our school and for getting the chrome books so early in the school year. Jason was told when he first came to Harelson that Harelson was behind other schools in getting and making use of technology. He hopes that we can continue to change that. Fourth and fifth grade field trips to Glen Canyon and the fifth grade camp are coming up. Jason will be going to both. The Turkey Trot is November 21, 2018 and is being hosted by Susie Herman and Sarah Nystedt. This is a way to give back to our community.

Teacher requests:

Third grade teachers, Tierney and Sieminski: 64 copies of Ramona Quimby, Age 8: request approved by the PTO.

Call to Audience

No additional items were brought up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted: Lizabeth Loehr, Harelson PTO Secretary