

Pines Lake Elementary School PTO Meeting
December 6, 2021 7:30 PM via Zoom

1. Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Katie Scheidt

2. Reading of the Prior Meeting Minutes or Motion to Waive Reading:

- Motion to waive by Allison Tyler and Maria Vlahos

3. Motion to Accept Prior Minutes:

- Motion accepted by Allison and Teresa Ziegler

4. Officer Reports:

- President- Katie/Julia Hillje Dardia:
 - Holiday Boutique- Julia said she is very thankful for all of the volunteers who helped at the holiday boutique. She also thanked the parents who sent in money for children to shop.
 - Julia said thank you for the time and effort that was put into the wreath sale and poinsettia sale.
 - Julia thanked class parents for arranging parties during these challenging times. She acknowledged how meaningful these activities are to the children.
 - Katie thanked staff and administration for all they do on a daily basis.
 - Food Drive- Katie thanked the following individuals for their help with the Thanksgiving Food Drive: Katherine D'Arienzo (Pines Lake's administrative assistant in the main office), Pines Lake School's cafeteria workers (for making room for items), Alexis Johnson (for divvying up items), and Pines Lake Garden Club/Barbara Dardia (turkeys).
 - Julia said to keep an eye out for a Sign Up Genius for the holiday giving tree.
 - Preliminary work has begun on the outdoor classroom. Currently, there are plans to install a shade for sun protection and to create more usable outdoor space.
- Vice President – Maria/Allison:
 - Allison is working on permits. She said to make sure to give her the dates of any events that are taking place so she can add that information to the permits.
- Treasurer- Teresa/Laura Winters:
 - Expenses- Scholastic News for Ms. Christein, Campgaw snow tubing, supplementals (reimbursement given by PTO to teachers for supplies) for Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Grosso, school store expenses, miscellaneous paper supplies, Wayne Alliance donation, startup money for holiday boutique, and Poinsettia Sale
 - Income- School Store, several opt-outs, membership, holiday boutique, Snow Tubing Night at Campgaw, and Poinsettia Sale
- Secretary- Meredith Snider/Joanne Bakas:
 - No report

5. Principal's Report:

- Mr. Celis said thank you for the following: holiday boutique, Thanksgiving Food Drive, and library support.
- Friday we will be recognizing our Educational Specialists of the Year. Mr. Celis will send out a blast with the announcement on Friday.

- Mr. Celis is excited for the school musical and talent show to take place this year. He feels that these are events that make our school great.
- Mrs. Olaya and 4th and 5th grade students will begin a program called Community Circles. This initiative will help to build and strengthen our community. Classes will sit in a circle and students will be given an opportunity to experience belonging. They will recognize their importance to the community and the school.
- Regarding COVID, Mr. Celis recognized that Pines Lake School is “getting hit hard” right now. He asked everyone to refer to the district website for information. He will be blasting more information in order to keep everyone updated. He noted that the school nurse Ms. Bulna is working hard to keep everyone as safe and informed as possible. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with concerns or questions.
- Regarding the Library Media Center, the makeover process is underway. Storage units have been purchased. Mr. Celis is very excited to begin this transformation.
- Mr. Celis is looking forward to the holiday giving tree.

6. Teacher Report:

- Mrs. Olaya said thank you for the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- She also noted that it was very nice to see the excitement of the children shopping at the Holiday Boutique.

7. Committee Reports:

- Raffle- Katie reported that the raffle is going on right now. This event supports the PTO. The drawing will be Wednesday, 12/15 in the main office. Thank you to all who purchased tickets so far. Katie needs to have all money and tickets before December 13.
- School Store- Karen Pollak reported that the school store has moved inside.
- Family Fun – Katie said to please send in your money if you signed up for Snow Tubing Night at Campgaw. There are currently 11 spots left.
- Holiday Boutique- Allison reported that this event was held in person and virtually. She did not have final numbers because the online shop had just closed. She noted that the sale did well. She felt that this vendor was very helpful. She said a huge thank you to the teachers and support staff. Usually, we are able to have parent volunteers to help the children shop but we were unable to do so because of COVID. Allison said that the teachers and support staff had the children shopping in a smooth and organized fashion.
- Spirit Wear- Meredith reported that all items have been distributed. The flannel pants and a few remaining hoodies arrived at Game Day (our vendor) on Wednesday, 11/24. She sorted, labeled, and distributed these items in time for everyone to have them over Thanksgiving break. A question was asked about holding another sale. She and Vivian Mike-Mayer will discuss the potential for opening a spirit wear store again later this year.
- Restaurant- Diana Fornino reported to Meredith that she is hoping to have a Panera event in January but is waiting to hear back from them with confirmation.
- Plant Sale – Per Allison, it was a small sale. Thank you to Jill for picking up all the plants and delivering them.
- Membership- Katie reported that the deadline to join the PTO was 11/30. 224 families joined.
- Opt-Out- Per Katie, several more Opt-Outs were recently received.
- Wayne Alliance – Katie said that a parent volunteered to be the new liaison for this committee starting in January.
- Talent show- Katie reported that some information recently went home regarding this event.

- Musical- Information was recently sent home with the students.
- Beautification- Julia said the sign in front is decorated with greenery and bows. She said that it looks great.

8. Old Business:

- None

9. New Business

- Karen suggested that people give shopping bags to the teachers for sending home supplies with students who are required to quarantine.
- Everyone will be encouraged to wear their Pines Lake School spirit wear any Friday.
- The PTO purchased 2 poinsettias for Katherine D'Arienzo.
- Allison went to a joint meeting of SEPAG (Special Education Parents Advisory Group) and Wayne SPA (Special Parents Association). It was the first meeting of the year and general information was provided. You can join SEPAG if you child has an IEP (Individualized Education Program) or 504 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act). This meeting provided ways to connect with others and provides support. The next meeting will be 1/18. Members will be encouraged to bring an IEP and they will break it down section by section. Paraprofessionals will be present to provide child care if parents want to come to the meeting with their child.
- Reminder- Our next PTO meeting is 1/3.
- Julia reminded everyone that both the talent show and the musical are fundraisers for the PTO. When considering the fees to participate, it is important to keep in mind that we need to pay staff members fairly while also making a profit for the PTO.

10. Adjournment :

- Meeting was adjourned 8:18.
- Motion to adjourn Laura and Joanne

Minutes recorded by Meredith Snider