MINUTES

P.O.W.W.E.R.

Orchard Hill Elementary PTO Minutes

3/28/2023 7:00pm | Meeting called to order by Sarah Hess

In Attendance

Sarah Hess, Ashley Welter, Mindy Kramme, Suzanne Watters, Lisa and Ava Schweigel, Jessica Booth, Darin Adams, Randy Husted, Andrew Bolthouse, Haley Iehl, Justine Rinehart, Jenna Flugum.

Orchard Hill Student Leaders & The Tree Girls Report

- Jolly Ranchers sale is to raise money for six benches. Have raised \$427.16 with costs of \$160. Goal is to raise \$800 by Friday. High they have had a lot of customers! Low so many customers that the lines have been out the door. They will be moving to the gym for the rest of the week to account for more space.
- Received a grant to plant 11 trees and will be meeting with Ms. Chris to discuss logistics with Jordan's Nursey. The trees will be planted around the field and around the playground area. One thought it each grade could help plant a tree. The longterm goal is to partner with local organizations like Cedar Falls Utilities (i.e., discount on trees) to make it possible to have the kindergarten class plant a tree each year.

Updates & Treasurer's Report

- School garden Ms. Tura got this going last year but no longer works here. Ms. Becker has been trying to get it started this spring but will be leaving after this year. She plans to come to POWWER in April to ask about who may be able to take this on. Could this be something that a passion group could help lead? Or are there other community volunteers or parents that could help? There was also the idea to make it a pollinator space. Young Plumbing may also provide funding for turning this into a butterfly garden. Master Gardener Club may also be an option for getting volunteers to help. There was concern about putting too much effort into the garden since that will be the location or close to the location of the where the outdoor classroom will be.
- Kindergarten/Kprep has requested funds from POWWER for a NinjaU field trip similar to last year. Cost is \$8 per student for a total of \$576. Funds approved by POWWER.
- Treasurer's report Current register balance is \$52,706.71. One Read-A-Thon payment has come in with a second on the way. All of the things we have done thus far for fundraising have come in right on target or above so we are doing well. Teachers can still turn in receipts for reimbursement this spring.
- Fun Fair raffle tickets are in the process of being ordered and in need of 5-8 people to help to count each day. QR code will be sent home with students to get volunteers to sign up. Rydell donated \$500 to Fun Fair and would like to do a check photo with Ms. Chris and some kids. Fun Fair incentive is for Ms. Chris to spend an afternoon on the school roof. Principal for the Day and other incentives will be offere, too. Dunk tank discussion was also had. Fun Fair planning meeting will be held after this meeting.
- Discussed the option of having someone come talk about bike safety to students. Original idea was to do this during Fun Fair but thinking it might make sense to do it at a separate time or during PE classes. Haley will touch base with the contact.
- New popcorn machine is here and will be used on Friday for popcorn day!
- Read-A-Thon went well! A total of 163,541 minutes read and \$15,793 raised. POWWER receives 80% of earnings and with \$365 in expenses (e.g., Scratch coupons, Barnes & Noble gift cards, popsicles) we brought in roughly \$12,300 (budgeted for \$10,000).
- Hospitality report Paraeducator Appreciation Day is Monday, April 3. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12. Sixth grade party is tentatively scheduled for June 1.
- Yearbook Four 5th graders and two 6th graders helping this year. Students had an art cover contest and voted for what the cover will be this year. Page layout begins this week. Biggest challenge right now is getting candid photos from each classs so encouraging teachers to get photos saved onto the shared drive!

• Get Hy-Vee receipts turned in. Last turn in for the year is in April.

Principal's Corner

- ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress) starts next week for 3rd-6th grades. Tests are completed all online and there is no time limit to complete the tests. Language, reading, and math skills will be tested. Fifth grade also does science. Snacks will be provided.
- Spring field trips are getting planned so parents please be sure to be checking email.
- Kindergarten Roung Up meeting tonight. Orchard Hill will have three sections of kindergarten next year.

Next Meeting

• Two more meetings left for the year. The May 9th meeting will include POWWER Board elections.

Adjourned at 8:01 p.m. Next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11, at 7:00 pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Jenna Flugum.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

"...to promote the welfare and educational values of children and youth at Orchard Hill Elementary School..."