

MINUTES

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

Orchard Hill Elementary PTO Minutes

4/11/2023 7:00pm | Meeting called to order by Sarah Hess

In Attendance

Sarah Hess, Ashley Welter, Ryleigh Schnell, Renae Drey, Anna Ndelekwute, Hailey Federickson, Mindy Kramme, Karen Becker, Andrew Bolthouse, Joan Hewett, Ashley Vonderhaar, Gabbi Cooper, Alyssa Deutsch, Darin Adams, Jenna Flugum.

Grade-Level Requests

- First grade requested grade-level funds to take students on field trips to NinjaU (\$8 per kid) and Hansen's Dairy (\$5 per kid). POWWER approved the expenses.
- Karen Becker gave an update about the school garden. Orchard Hill received a grant and had AmeriCorps volunteers to get this started. We have not been able to get enough AmeriCorps volunteers on an ongoing basis and would need parent volunteers to keep this going. Darin mentioned there is a parent he knows who may be interested in taking on the garden project and will reach out to him. The garden would need to be tended to and things planted soon. Darin also mentioned that the Cedar Falls CAPS program might be able to make raised garden beds.
- Alyssa Deutsch said pre-K would like to purchase trikes and a shed to store them. She's going to investigate the shed size needed and get back to POWWER about pricing. Darin mentioned Hawkeye Community College has a program where they build sheds so this might be a good option.
- Luke Wagner, Instructional Technology Coach, has been helping to coordinate the Makerspace Challenge. Teachers agreed to allocating \$100 of each grade level's funds to purchase items for the Orchard Hill makerspace.
- Fourth grade has contributed grade-level funds to the outdoor classroom and the makerspace. They requested to use some of their additional funds for math manipulatives (e.g., fraction strips, snap cubes, magnetic ten blocks) to help with learning fractions, multiplication, and place value. They are also looking to purchase vertical learning spaces tools (e.g., wipe books, giant white boards, rulers, sheet protectors) and clipboards and headphones. POWWER approved. Fourth grade teachers also talked about the field trips they have taken this year to the robotics competition at UNI to watch Cedar Falls High School compete, the symphony, and a show called Freedom Flight at the Gallagher Bluedorn. They also typically visit the rock quarry in Jesup and hope to still do that yet this year.

Principal's Corner

- ISASPs (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress) just wrapped up for 3rd-6th grades and went well. FAST testing will be the first week of May.
- Habits 3 (put first things first) and 4 (think win win) coincide with the Fun Fair assembly on Friday.
- Orchard Hill is losing three special education teachers next year. Ms. Barnett will be a success coach next year, shared between Orchard Hill and Cedar Heights. This is a new position within the district that will focus on creating a joyful school culture and assisting students with behaviors.
- Waiting to hear back on timeline for outdoor classroom.

Treasurer's Report & Updates

- Treasurer's report – Current balance in checking is \$51,706.07 and balance in savings is \$17,864.65. Teachers should turn in receipts for reimbursement by May 1st. A reminder to John Deere employees that they receive

the Benevity Power for Good benefit to donate with a 1-to-1 match from Deere or apply time to then get "Dollars for Doers" donations from Deere. Employees can access the information at <https://sso.johndeere.com>.

- Hospitality report – Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12. Sixth grade party is scheduled for June 1st at Palmer’s Family Fun with pizza. Permission slips will go home soon.
- Hy-Vee receipts need to be turned in by April 21st for final submission of the year.
- New popcorn machine is here and will be used on Friday for popcorn day!
- Fun Fair is coming up! Raffle ticket sales begin this Friday after the kick-off assembly and information will be sent home with students. Many volunteers are still needed to help with the event so everyone please sign up for a shift. Window artwork, completed by Jessica Booth, will be put up in the cafeteria next week. Wrist bands will be sold this year instead of tickets for games and can be pre-ordered. Prizes will be in each of the game rooms rather than having a designated game room this year. Planning meeting will be held after this meeting.
- Yearbook is moving along with most of the pages completed. Still need photos for PE, music, and 3rd grade. Order forms will be sent home at the end of April/early May.
- There was a question about whether we should offer another brick fundrasier as the company we order bricks from wanted to know if they should close our account or keep it open. Could consider offering brick sales as the new outdoor classroom construction begins. Might be a place near the outdoor classroom where we could lay bricks. Would need to look into how we could avoid the loose rock situation that we had near the playground.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is May 9th and includes POWWER Board elections. If anyone is interested in possibly serving as a Board member, please reach out to a current Board member or attend our next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 9, at 7:00 pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Jenna Flugum.

<p>PURPOSE STATEMENT</p>

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