

Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Attendance list attached.

**NEW ITEMS:**

Todd presented Jen Read with a beautiful blueberry pie!

**PRINCIPAL REPORT—Ms. Dahlk:**

**Staffing:**

After watching the incoming registrations this spring, we are expecting a lot of new kindergarteners next year. The numbers bring us to district standard class sizes now, so we recently opened a 5<sup>th</sup> section for kindergarten. The state funding we have allows us to keep our classes smaller, which makes adding the additional section possible for Sauk Trail.

**Dual Language Program:**

Sauk Trail will be starting a Dual Language Program for the Fall of 2017. Students in this program will spend half of their day with a Spanish-only speaking teacher and half with an English-only speaking teacher. Students in the program will be both English and Spanish speaking. In 2018, Sauk Trail will add a 1<sup>st</sup> grade section and then we will continue to add on a new grade level each year, until the program is operating in the middle/high school as well. West Middleton will also offer the program, starting in the Fall of 2018.

**Mural:**

The mural is coming along nicely. Chris asked the artist to add a dual language piece, which will be on the opposite side of the lower stairwell. They will translate the text, which is currently written in English, into Spanish. There will be a dedication of the mural on June 2<sup>nd</sup> before the hot dog lunch, probably during an all school assembly. The new door, funded by the PTO, has been ordered and should be installed before the end of the school year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Box Tops & Labels for Education—Cathy Reuter:**

We will be getting a check for about \$850 for the spring box top challenge. We are also looking at Labels for Education, trying to decide if we want to continue submitting them or not. Cathy is willing to do it as long as they continue to be donated. We will look at the catalog and see what our points can earn for us, possibly an iPad for be auctioned next year.

**Book Fair —Cathy Reuter:**

Fair is up and running this week. We will determine if hosting it for four days has an added benefit or if three days is enough for the BOGO.

**Staff Appreciation**—Amber Sehgal:

It was a success! The microwave, toaster oven and dish rack were very appreciated by staff. Staff also enjoyed the happy hour on Friday. Three families donated the money (\$325) to cover the appetizers at the happy hour, so the PTO had minimal expenses for that event. Hopefully, we can do something new and exciting next year.

**Color Run**—Diana Green:

Permits, insurance and other details are all setup for Friday's big event. Setup on Friday will include putting down plastic covering inside door 10, so color doesn't get on the carpet as kids can come in and use the restrooms. A large barn fan will also be placed right outside door 10. Todd is working on building a fan station to blast the kids near the finish line.

The start will be at the red playground, taking the dirt path onto the paved path. The course will be the big loop of Lakeview Park. All kids and family members are welcome to participate, as long as waivers are signed.

Food trucks will be lined up along the back wall of the secondary playground, along with a small stage. The food trucks will be donating a percentage of the proceeds back to the school. The trucks can take cash or credit, many with \$5 meals. Music will play during registration and continue for the entire event. Announcements will also be made, as needed.

After this year, our contract with the Chip Shoppe is satisfied. If we decide to do another color run in the future, we should consider working with another company and/or doing it ourselves.

**School Supply Kits**—Megan Davis and Jessica Burfield:

The order forms were distributed in the teacher mailboxes today. Everything seems to be going well with SchoolKidz, other than our representative is out on medical leave. Orders are due on 5-27 and the online order system is open until 6-3.

**TREASURER REPORT**—Alex Kasper, not present:

Amber mentioned that our account is stable, so we should move forward with plans for next year. We have money to do what we've been doing; including additional projects should they be desired.

**2016/2017 FUNDED INITIATIVES:**

**Madison Symphony Funding Request** —Mr. Becker, not present:

Mr. Becker is requesting funding for Madison Symphony's Programming for all students next year. He will not be requesting funding for "Overture Onstage" performances for next year.

Sauk Trail has participated in the Up Close and Musical Residency Program in the past. This program is for students K-3 and includes four school visits by a string quartet. The quartet visits each individual classroom for the participating

grades. In May, the students attend a Symphony concert at the Overture to hear the entire orchestra. Funding is being requested to cover the cost of the Overture tickets for all students (\$2 per student, which is half price due to free and reduced hot lunch population) AND the roundtrip transportation costs (approximately \$125 per bus).

Mr. Becker is also requesting funding for the 4th graders to participate in different Madison Symphony program. The curriculum for this program was developed through Carnegie Hall's Weill program and allows students an opportunity to go to the Overture to hear and play recorder flutes with the Madison Symphony. The PTO is asked to cover the \$2 per tickets as well as roundtrip transportation costs.

Members shared their positive reviews for the Up Close and Musical Residency Program. Members also liked the idea that there was symphony programming available for students at each grade level.

After a unanimous vote, the PTO agreed to fund the request for symphony programming for all students K-4.

**Quickly Reviewed Funding Initiatives—Amber Sehgal:**

Members quickly reviewed currently funded initiatives and unanimously agreed to continue funding the following:

- Cultural Experiences
- Farm to School: \$550 for the school year
- Read On
- Birthday Books: \$1200 per year. A new funding source to be identified.
- Staff Discretionary Funds
- Spaghetti Dinner: Self-sustaining
- Winter Tea
- Family Fun Event: The PTO agreed that it would be nice to do something different for a Family Fun night next year (not a dance). Members agreed to continue the discussion after talking more about potential fundraisers.

**2016/2017 FUNDRAISERS:**

**Direct Donation Request—Amber Sehgal:**

Amber circulated the Membership/Donation form that was distributed this past fall. As a PTO, we no longer require individuals to become members in order to actively participate in the PTO. Members were asked for revision suggestions, including whether or not to continue using the term 'membership' on the form and/or to ask for 'help wanted' email information. Members discussed options and agreed that the donation form will not replace planned fundraisers, but did not come to complete agreement on form details and/or when it will be distributed. The PTO board will make final revisions in small committee.

**Auction & Winter Carnival**—Amber Sehgal:

Members agreed that we should move forward with planning for the Auction and Winter Carnival for next year. No members were interested in chairing the committee, but several expressed a willingness to take part in a strategy meeting this summer. Amber will send out a meeting invite to everyone on the Chairs List in June to get the ball rolling!

**Square 1**—Maddy Niebauer, not present:

Amber indicated that the committee recently discussed options for completing the Square 1 art, including classroom time and/or hosting an art night where students complete the project with the aid of their special adult. The committee determined that having students complete their project during class would make the most sense.

Ms. Gustafson indicated a willingness to incorporate the Square 1 fundraiser into her curriculum, starting immediately in the fall. She is comfortable handling the art work, but will need PTO support with labeling, tracking student completion and other non-art-related pieces of the fundraiser. Maddy has agreed to chair the committee, but Tina and Lindsay also expressed an interest in helping Ms. Gustafson with the details.

**Art Night**—Ms. Gustafson:

Ms. Gustafson said that Park School has a family night/art show for one night each year. She would be interested in doing something similar and/or inviting students and parents to come to school and create something together.

Jen Read brought up an art school in Fish Creek called Hands On, where they have families come in and create bowls and then they auction them off to raise funds. She suggested doing something like this before our auction, so we could auction the art off as well. After discussion, the group felt that the art work should be for simple enjoyment, not to be used for a fundraiser. Ms. Gustafson also noted that, ideally, she would like to tie the night into Youth Art Month in March.

Amber mentioned the idea of an Encore Night, building off of Ms. Gustafson's idea of doing an art night. Encore staff would be enlisted to help prepare components for the night, but the PTO could tie the evening together, funding pieces were needed. Ms. Dahlk indicated that, based on data she has tracked, families are more likely to attend if food is served. She also noted that the school may have some additional funding sources based on the content of the event. After a lot of discussion, the group determined that this was an idea to continue discussing for next year.

**Bucky Books**—Cathy Reuter:

The group discussed whether or not to continue with the Bucky Books. Cathy is willing to do it again. The group thought it was worth doing another year since it is relatively easy and could be more successful in a follow-up year.

**Other:**

Diana Greene – Mentioned that Mr. Todd would be willing to help us with a Pig Roast. The group loved the idea, but wasn't sure if it was affordable or workable. The group determined it was something we could always revisit.

Nina Menda – Suggested hosting an International Night, where parents and/or clubs setup tables to display and/or share things about their heritage. Students receive passports and 'travel' around to the various booths, collecting stamps. Tina mentioned that Elm Lawn does this during the day. The group thought this would be a great evening family event to host during International Week in mid-April. Follow-up discussion regarding this idea is needed.

**2016/2017 PTO BOARD POSITIONS:**

Amber indicated that we have two open board positions, Vice President and Treasurer.

Alex noted that he has a lead for a new Treasurer, but shared job responsibilities and needed skills. Diana also noted that her girls will be transferring to Northside next year, so she will be stepping down as Vice.

Jessica Burfield volunteered to run for Vice President, to which all attendees were in full support.

**2016/2017 PTO CHAIR POSITIONS:**

The group quickly reviewed the chair positions for next year. Everyone agreed to continue chairing their events. The group agreed that we will need to advertise the open positions, but that there are no critical holes that we won't be able to sort out.

**2016/2017 CALENDAR:**

Chairs will help populate our new calendar, as soon as possible. We will do our best to have a strong calendar before Information Day. At our first fall meeting (if not before), we will finalize details for our family fun event and add it to the calendar prior to Directory release.

Adjourned 8:32pm.

PTO Meeting Minutes 5-10-16

**MEETING ATTENDEES:**

Megan Davis  
Jessica Burfield  
Cathy Reuter  
Jen Read  
Amber Sehgal  
Anne Gustafson  
Connie Hammill  
Julie Bohnsach  
Lindsay Lyons  
Kris Sonnentag  
Tina Miller  
Nina Menda  
Chris Dahlk  
Diana Greene  
Alex Kaspar