

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Amber (President).

Introductions:

Each member introduced themselves to the group and an attendance sheet was passed around. Fifteen people, including Chris Dahlk (Principal), were present. (See attendance sheet for names.)

President:

Amber welcomed the group and gave an update on the addition of thank you notes in the newsletter. She also brought up the Event Summary Sheets. The PTO chairs are working on taking more notes for the events so that new event chairs do not have to recreate the data. Diana (Vice President) is put the Summaries on the Google drive, so they will be available for years to come. She stressed the importance of including every detail so that someone coming in, who has never worked with the PTO, can read the summaries and know exactly what to do.

Principal

Report:

Chris updated us on the grant writing that she has been working on and efforts to decrease the achievement gap. Sauk Trail chose math and literacy to test for proficiency. The gaps ranged from 15% to 36% in math and 20% to 51% in literacy between economically advantaged and economically disadvantaged. The school is looking to bridge the gap between the two. She is looking for tools and ways to engage the families and get suggestions for the school. The discussion included the suggestion of doing "Ted Talks" and/or something that can go out in eNews and the infinite campus emails. It was also brought up that the classroom parents can get involved, working with other parents, to discuss issues and thoughts about the school. The school will continue the clubs for the kids as a way to provide some of what might be missing for students on the lower end of the gap.

Artist in Residence. Chris has been in contact with Sharon with Dane County Arts for ideas for the project. She brought in Anita who discussed involving the Clark Street high school kids. Chris wants depth in the piece and wants it to demonstrate the diversity that we have at Sauk Trail. Anita will talk to the kids in the classroom about what diversity means to them and she will take their ideas to the mural/mosaic piece. We really want a piece that the kids can touch and interact with as being involved with the whole project. Anita will start by going into the classrooms and talking to the kids before winter break for suggestions. The wall will be primed during winter break and shortly thereafter the work will begin.

## Committee

### Updates:

**TOW Fundraiser - Jessica:** Raised almost \$680 which was a little bit more than we raised last year. We had discussed using the funds to cover the Farm to Table event. That costs about \$500-\$550 so we covered our costs. Items will be packed at home and delivered to the school on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. We need someone to cover a table at school for people to pick up their orders after school that day. Help will be needed to help package the items too. No update on the website. Things are going well.

**Spaghetti Dinner – Lindsay and Tina:** The event was a huge success. They reduced the food order this year, which saved money. Did not add games, but brought in the face paint, which is minimal cost. This year we earned about \$600 compared to \$300 last year. We were still short of volunteers so Lindsay and Tina had to make personal requests. Pre-order sale was \$774 and it was \$740 at the door.

**Tri 4 Schools - Tina:** Earned \$640 for the school. The money will be used for fitness equipment and the playground. Thank you for PTO support for funding the Girls on the Run carb load dinner at Benvenutos.

**Newsletter – Candice – not present:** Thank you to everyone for getting the information for the newsletter so timely. We discussed including a piece about something going on at school, like the banner theme changes each month and ideas for getting to know the school and the teachers. We also talked about having a piece written by students, or something about the diversity of the student. Including school events on the website and/or newsletter was brought up.

Candice needs help with Farm to School volunteers.

**Bucky Book – Cathy – not present:** We sold 113 books, raising over 2K for the school. It is a great profit, but much less than anticipated. Cathy suggests doing it again, but improving the marketing strategy!

**Chip Shoppe – Diana:** We were still under contract with them this year, so she opted to do the Color Run as a school-wide event. We encourage fundraising, but will allow all kids to participate. It will be a Friday night, May 13<sup>th</sup>, and will include a celebration with family and friends event. We will bring in food trucks, so families can purchase dinner. We will be talking to the city about looping the course into Lakeview and throwing the corn starch/colors. Diana is looking for help with the event.

**Book Fair - Emily:** Performed about as well as last year. We provided \$105 in Scholastic bucks for prizes for the spaghetti dinner. About \$400 went to Mrs. O'Rourke. Total brought in was just under \$6300 with \$1400 in cash and \$275 in Scholastic Bucks. Need to discuss a better way to re-order and a better to get the newer books and not as many hard covers in old books.

**Box Tops – Kristen – not present:** Box tops were counted quickly, but there was a delay in announcing the winners. This took some of the teachers off guard, who continued collecting for a longer period of time. We are looking for a new Redemption Chair to oversee the Spring contest, which will run for two weeks. Dates are set, but brainstorming about prizes needs to be determined.

**Help Wanted Email – Diana:** If you want to use the help wanted email list, the request should come through the Sauk PTO email so it is clear that it is coming from the school. Amber is testing it out with the TOW fundraiser in December. The classroom lists are pretty complete. Looking for assistance with Teacher Appreciation and getting pictures from each classroom for the yearbook. An email will go out to the group soon to request pictures.

Open Discussion:

**Cecilie:** The directory data is no longer coming to us in an 'easy to work with' format. It has taken many hours to organize the data into the Directory Format that we typically print. There are several limitations including: only one email address will be included, multiple households will not be broken out and siblings will no longer be listed. The group also discussed if directories should continue being printed or if we should provide a PDF as a way to reduce costs. Nina suggested an app called A-Z School Directory, which they use at her previous school. Principal Dahlk is going to follow up with the district to determine our options.

**Anne Gustafson (art teacher):** She would like to put student art work on display during the Winter Tea. She asked that we pass the word on to parents to look for their student's work. She would also like to use a table during the Winter Tea to display small clay t-cups.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

**Attendance List:**

Chris Dalhk (Principal)

Amber Sehgal (President)

Diana Greene (Vice)

Megan Davis (Secretary)

Alex Kasper (Treasurer)

Jacki Greene (Staff)

Laura Esbe (Staff)

Wendy Coyne (Staff)

Anne Gustavson (Staff)

Ann O'Rourke (Staff)

Lindsay Lyons (Parent)

Tina Miller (Parent)

Emily Mayer (Parent)

Jessica Burfield (Parent)

Nina Menda (Parent)

Cecilie Ballard (Parent)

NOTE: Childcare was provided for six children.