

Date 1/16/2018

Start 5:10

In attendance:

1 Liaison

8 parents

4 teachers

1 Principal

Meeting opened with introduction of Agenda

Minutes of last meeting were stipulated, link to [Pillsbury website](#) and [Facebook PTO](#) page

1. Formal Meeting Guidelines proposed.
 - a. Recognition that most attendees are familiar with common practices but it is in our favor to adopt a formal "best practice" as a part of the organization
 - i. Respect Time
 1. Stay on topic and within agenda. If there are concerns based on the topic, suggest that these be added to agenda or referred to in Comments time
 2. Jasmine has volunteered to be moderator, assisting meeting chair. Questions to be in clarification only, more detailed questions to be reserved for the comments period.
 3. Reduce repeat questions or redundant statements. Going over the same points outside of clarification squanders time.
 - ii. Mutual Respect
 1. Recognize that all parties in attendance share the same purpose and mission; the good of Pillsbury students and school.
 2. Listen first to understand, respond to seek understanding. Respond respectfully. Limit discussion to one conversation at a time. When the whole room is speaking at one time, there is no discourse, only discord.
2. Representative at Large
 - a. It was acknowledged that LouAnna Alahem, member, has agreed to act as backup to elected members, but has no formal position. It was proposed

that a position of Representative at Large be created.

- b. Proposal Accepted, LouAnna has agreed to function in this capacity.
3. Treasurer Report: There were total deposits in the amount of \$846.15
 - a. Scrip sales: \$587.50
Maya restaurant: \$198.15
T-Shirts: \$ 25.50
Candy: \$ 69.00
 - b. It is noted that there is a check from Culvers \$193.61 on the way.
 - c. Expenditures in the amount of \$234.50. This represents Pillsbury's share of movie licensing fees, shared with Sheridan.
 - d. Scrip sales represents only the amount of physical gift cards actually sold and is offset by the amount of physical gift cards purchased by the school. This amount does not represent that actual amount earned by the school. Scrip Fund dollars earned has yet to be reported. Treasurer reports that there will be a full accounting of amounts used to purchase cards, amounts sold, inventory of cards on hand and amounts that represent actual income to be given as soon as the information is available.
4. Fundraising
 - a. SCRIPS
SCRIPS is a popular fundraiser. It is acknowledged that the extent of the money actually raised is not yet available. We have not sold all of the initial capital, having about \$1000 in unsold cards.
2/7/2018 There will be an Informational Meeting for parents and staff to go over direct purchase via website. It is hoped that this will drive more activity directly to the school. Selling opportunities at upcoming teacher conferences and parent pickup are available. Signup sheets are available as well as Signup Genius website.
 - b. Movie Night
We are partnering with Sheridan School to co-host movie night. We will supply half the volunteers and pay half the expenses and earn half the profits. Flyers are out with the kids. Most of the volunteer spaces are filled, but there are still 2 slots open in the theater that need to be filled. Those positions were filled.
 - c. This month's movie is 1-19-2018 showing Despicable Me 3. Admission is \$1, Popcorn and Drinks are \$1, Hot dogs \$3.00. Hot dog choices are beef (halal to those that are interested) and veggie dogs.
 - d. The next movie night is Thursday, March 29th. Coco will be shown. We will

soon have an opportunity to pick the April movie

- e. Upcoming events include Reading Night and Book Fair, which need volunteers respectively. Signup sheets and Signup Genius will have more details
- f. Selling opportunities – Gift card and T-Shirt sales, as well as volunteer recruitment will be had at the upcoming parent teacher conferences, Book Fair and Reading Night. Signup Genius and Signup sheets will be presented.
- g. There is an upcoming field trip to the Institute of Art on 1/24/2018, needs a volunteer. LouAnna Alahem offered service, accepted.
- h. Carnival
CARNIVAL! We are so late in planning. With the change in the End of School date to 6/8/2018, we were concerned that Windom park would be a problem, but Dave at Windom was already under the impression that we wanted 6/1/2018 for the Carnival. It was motioned that we change the date, motion carried. Committee signup sheets were distributed. We are going to need a committee to draft volunteers to volunteer for committees. All signup sheets will also be posted in Signup Genius.

5. Principal's Corner

- a. Razkids has been purchased from School funds, rather than from the PTO as previously planned. It was also noted that the Minnetonka Moccasin Grant was written in request for the Science Lab items this year and was approved. This grant will be used to design and develop the science lab with maker space, open architecture and multifunction furnishings. The aquaponics lab is in operation. Principal envisions a Lego Wall.
- b. We have sought a Math Teacher. A proposal has been offered and accepted by a candidate, further information to be given when available.
- c. Lifetouch is sending us \$300.00
- d. The District-
 - i. Start-Stop time: Request to do a survey to gather data for the Start – stop time was denied. While some schools have gotten exemptions to the current policy there has been pushback and there are plans to change this at the district level. A District survey is forthcoming.
 - ii. Bilingual Education-The District feels that our school should focus its energies on STEM. We were a strong STEM school before, and the District feels this is where we should expend our energies,
 - iii. It is observed that the District is under budgetary pressure. There

isn't as much money and the District needs to get as much bang for the buck as possible. It is one parent's considered opinion that the District is too much in the CUT mindset and not enough in the INVEST mode. It is also a considered opinion that there isn't a lot of help coming from the district, that we will have to do what we can to mitigate. There was a question of what exactly the District is doing for us..... But for now, we are committed to being STEM strong. The new science lab and math teacher are a step in that direction.

- iv. There was a lively discussion surrounding the idea that perhaps Pillsbury can distinguish itself as a STEAM school, Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Mathematics. There is a lot of support for this idea from teachers, parents and administration. Collaborative teaching was also considered a good idea.

6. Comments:

- i. Carnival-Were we going to have wrestling again? There was a discussion of the pros/cons. Last year's carnival got a lot of good press and buzz from it, with only a handful of complaints. Motion made to include with this year-motion carried
- ii. Proposal to provide teachers with meal at Thursday's conferences- Teachers start right after the last bell and won't be done after 7pm. Parents agreed to provide food
- iii. It was shared that in a blog Bright Lights/Small Cities, it is reported that the MPS Director of Enrollment is also a consultant for parents to "make the most of their school choice." In effect, our district representative is steering students away from the schools, cutting enrollment, which directly impacts the budget and Nigeria available for our schools. At any rate, it is a clear conflict of interest.

7. Next meeting is February 20