



**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 1, 2015**

1. Welcome PTO Executive Board
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:05 by Sonja Brown.
    - i. Seconded by Alicia Nanez.
2. Updates from PTO President Sonja Brown
  - a. Thank you for helping out with ABC Fundraiser.
    - i. Alicia will talk a little bit more about what that means.
  - b. Coming up we have our Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.
    - i. A Sign-Up Genius has gone out.
    - ii. We are doing a taco bar.
    - iii. Date for that is **Thursday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**.
    - iv. We need volunteers to make food, set up the food, and take the every thing down.
    - v. If you are not on our email list to get the Sign Up Geniuses but want to be, be sure to put your information on the sign up sheet.
  - c. Trunk or Treat is **Friday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>**.
    - i. TSA is also piggy backing with us again this year to do an Auction.
    - ii. Not sure if they will also be doing the spaghetti dinner again this year.
  - d. Skate City is **Wednesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>**.
    - i. I think we will have 2 buses for that.
    - ii. I will be chaperoning along with my husband.
    - iii. The kids have a great time, they don't have to skate, but can just hang out with their friends.
  - e. We have Andrea Overton on the agenda to talk about Host Family Opportunities, but she will actually be here next month.
    - i. Kellie will go ahead and talk about that a little bit tonight.
3. Updates from the Principal Kellie Lauth
  - a. Level 3 came and kicked off the App Challenge with the kids.
    - i. They have been learning about cyber security and cyber bullying.
    - ii. Geared toward 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders.
    - iii. It runs through October 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - iv. There are chances for the kids to level up.
    - v. There is an opportunity for the kids to go to Level 3 and have lunch.

- vi. Level 3 brought in their deep security team to talk to the kids.
  - vii. Learning how to use their powers for good.
  - viii. There is a celebration dinner on **October 19<sup>th</sup>**.
  - ix. They will have awards for kids who completed the challenge.
  - x. The kids will also get a chance to work with senior citizens on cyber security since they are a group that is really vulnerable.
- b. Next week is Anti-bullying week.
    - i. Kids will get a new uniform shirt for that.
  - c. We can't advertise it on the website or Facebook for security reasons, but for those of you who are here tonight we can tell you that the helicopter will be here on Monday.
    - i. Time will be about 1:15.
    - ii. Last year they came and landed and took off from the field.
    - iii. They will be doing that again this year.
    - iv. This is for all of the kids to see.
    - v. They will get a chance to tour the helicopter.
    - vi. We'll bring the kids out about 1:00.
  - d. Epic has officially launched.
    - i. Kids will get a chance to be an apprentice on **Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**.
    - ii. Kids getting the chance to go all over the place to go behind the scenes at Denver Zoo, the Science Museum, and Google.
  - e. Conferences start next week.
    - i. Should be getting times set up with teachers.
  - f. Junior Achievement will be at the end of the month.
  - g. Achieve 3000 will be starting.
    - i. It's like Think Through Math, but for reading.
    - ii. For K-8
    - iii. Will get up and running after conferences.
    - iv. Some teachers will still be doing RAZ Kids.
    - v. At K-2 level it's called SmartyAnts.
    - vi. Parents will be getting the login information for that sent home.
  - h. **October 27<sup>th</sup>** is Literacy Night for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders.
    - i. Doing some things to get them more interested in literacy since they don't participate in Day of the Child.
  - i. **October 13<sup>th</sup>** will be a night for families with Gifted and Talented students.
    - i. We're going to partner with Destination Imagination to come and talk.
  - j. We've been asked by a company started by 3 women, all high power executives who quit their jobs to live in Hong Kong, to bring STEM experiences to children in China.
    - i. They asked 2 of our teachers to come and develop a STEM camp.

- ii. The parents loved it so much they have asked that their children be brought over here to be immersed in the STEM experience.
  - iii. They will be coming to STEM Launch for 7 days in January.
  - iv. Andrea Overton will be asking if any families could host them.
  - v. They will have a chaperone with them.
  - vi. It will be 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - vii. It's an amazing opportunity.
  - viii. Some of our teachers have been asked to get other international camps off the ground.
  - k. We have a student who has talked to PTO before, Kylan who has a 15 minute documentary coming out on **October 17<sup>th</sup>**.
    - i. We'll be doing some cool things in the school in conjunction with the release of it.
    - ii. It's a beautiful 15 minutes.
    - iii. PTO was the first group he presented to.
4. Updates from PTO Treasurer Alicia Nanez
- a. Sorry for not having numbers last month.
  - b. All of the grants we awarded at the end of last year didn't get used, some of them only partially.
  - c. We started this year with \$3,585.00
    - i. The Math and Movement night grant only spent \$995, so we are pending for \$1000 for this year.
    - ii. That leaves us with \$2,585.00
    - iii. We're just a little under what we started with last year.
  - d. We've been counting all day for the money raised from the ABC Fundraiser.
    - i. We deposited \$21,
    - ii. Online sales were a little over \$5,700.
    - iii. We had one straight cash donation of \$150
    - iv. We're looking at a \$27,576 raised for this year!
    - v. I didn't pull the numbers, but we are a little above what we made for last year.
  - e. We do have a grant to talk about tonight for Kellie.
    - i. It's for a 74 Account
    - ii. The amount is for \$4,000.
    - iii. **Kellie:** We are coming at it more like a partnership with the PTO.
    - iv. A 74 Account is an account all schools have.
    - v. It's a discretionary fund, it's not a federal grant/fund.
    - vi. We can't use the school budget for it.
    - vii. Last couple of years I was lucky enough to have come to STEM Launch with some money I brought to the table and we also had some other grants.
    - viii. Now I'm out of those funds, which happens.

- ix. Most schools like STEM Lab, do partner with PTO to be given a certain amount.
  - x. It's up to you all with what you're willing to do.
  - xi. \$4,000 does seem like a lot, and it is, but if I were to prived our staff of 125 with 85 certified staff for something like a lunch, it would cost \$500.
  - xii. I also use the funds for things like taking the kids out for the Principal's Challenge, or if we take students to lunch.
  - xiii. It can also be used for families within the community that may need it for food, uniforms, or transportation like for bus passes.
  - xiv. It's transparent and is audited.
  - xv. The district overseas it, it's not like petty cash.
  - xvi. They're scrutinized more than other accounts are.
  - xvii. I would like to ask the PTO to replenish it. I'm asking for \$4,000 but would be happy with any amount.
  - xviii. I can fund raise legally, but I feel it's stressful on families and I don't want to compete with the fundraising that the PTO does.
  - xix. I'm asking for a grant and for PTO to think of a way we can go forward with this in the future.
  - xx. I can be as transparent about it as you would like. I can give a yearly, or even a quarterly update.
  - xxi. I spend about \$3,000-\$4,000 a year.
  - xxii. I don't feel like we're extravagant with what we spend the funds on. Gloria does a good job with going with the cheapest options.
- f. Melinda suggested adding an addendum to the PTO Bylaws going forward so that an amount is set to give rather than bringing it to a vote each year.
- i. We can work together at the beginning of each school year to decide on what amount for the coming year would be a good amount.
- g. Vote was unanimously approved for \$4,000.
- h. **Sonja:** So in the vein of grants, last year we talked and voted on a grant for Carrie Romero-Bruegger.
- i. The grant was in the amount of \$7,000 for Level sets of books for students who are reading above their grade level, but need age appropriate books.
  - ii. We would instead like to put together a fundraiser to solicit funds to replenish the book room.
  - iii. Kellie and I are working to figure out what we're going to put together.
  - iv. Something will be coming home to families.
  - v. It doesn't have to all be this year. It would be a work in progress.
  - vi. **Kellie:** A level set runs about \$1,500.

- vii. Kellie will set down with Carrie and work out a structure to send something out to parents.
- i. We are a book trust school this year.
  - i. Everybody gets a book with every book order up to \$7.00.
  - ii. It's grades K-2
  - iii. Everything is done at school, so the orders don't come home with the kids.

5. STEM 101

Kellie Lauth

- a. We have a new "toy" this year.
  - i. The Rover 3D
  - ii. Kids get to use this.
  - iii. Teachers will be able to check it out online for students to use.
  - iv. It's a \$50,000 piece of technology that was given to us for free.
  - v. There are over 3000 topics and demos for the kids to see.
  - vi. Can project 20x20 feet.
  - vii. It doesn't make you sick, the 3D glasses that come with it are not like movie 3D glasses.
  - viii. The image follows you.
  - ix. Some older students are learning to use it and will be helping out with it.
  - x. Tonight we're going to show it to you.
  - xi. **At this point we were given a demonstration of the Rover.**

6. Q&A

(Regarding the level sets for the book room)

Q: How much is the gap to fill?

A: About \$3,000-\$3,500

Q: Is a donation to the PTO tax deductible?

A: No, but donating to the school is.

(Regarding Trunk or Treat)

Q: **Kellie:** We share lots of families with Federal Heights and last year a lot of families walked over, it's bound to happen, are we charging at the door in case families show up? I'm happy to reach out to the school and let them know that there would be a fee, or a bag of candy to be given out.

A: This year we won't be charging like we did last year because we are just doing straight up candy, none of the non-candy treats. We can decide about what we'll do for the other families.

Q: I've noticed looking at my account for my kids some charges for like, cookies and chips in the cafeteria. Are they serving that?

A: **Kellie:** There is an a la carte stand in the cafeteria that does have those items. If it were up to me, it wouldn't be there. As a parent you can go into your online account and shut that off so that your kids can't purchase those items. They would still be able to get their lunch, just not the a la carte items.

7. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:09.