



PTO Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 5, 2015

1. Welcome

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:03 by Sonja Brown.
 - i. Seconded by Alicia Nanez
- b. Already November
- c. Things will be out of order on the agenda.
- d. Shauna is the new librarian and will be speaking to us about a grant she has applied for in the amount of \$1,206.75.
 - i. I have applied for a grant.
 - ii. Wanted to introduce myself.
 - iii. PTO is heart of school for the library too.
 - iv. Want to get parents involved.
 - v. I'm teaching the students as schedules allow how to get on MackinVia. It's an online portal for ebooks databases.
 - vi. Easy to get to. Type in MackinVia, ID is STLAU. Password is Abcd1234.
 - vii. Been working mostly with 2nd graders.
 - viii. Can do it on your phone as an app.
 - ix. Books will be read to them.
 - x. One of the databases I am asking for in the grant is Pebble.Go.
 - xi. It's \$862.
 - xii. It has articles written at a lower level, text to speech, and activities for the kids to do. Kids can print pictures from it and will do the citation for them.
 - xiii. It's very easy to plagiarize off of the internet, especially pictures.
 - xiv. The other database is Ebsco. It's more for middle school.
 - xv. It's a collection of websites for students.
 - xvi. There are two Battles of the Books clubs going on. It's at 7:30 am on Thursdays.
 - xvii. We just decided yesterday to do an elementary battle of the books, for 4th and 5th grades.
 - xviii. No paperwork has been sent home yet.
 - xix. They have to read 5 books by March 25th.
 - xx. Parents are welcome to set up an account and check out books.
 - xxi. If you have any questions you can email me at lin008284@adams12.org.

- e. Sonja is taking the vote on the grant \$1,206.75.
 - i. The grant does need to be voted on every year. It's a licensure.
 - ii. Kellie: This is something that be worked on into my budget. Shauna wasn't here at them time I was working on the different licensures the teachers love.
 - iii. The grant was passed with a unanimous vote.
- 2. Updates from PTO President Sonja Brown
 - a. ABC orders were delivered today.
 - b. Trunk or Treat was successful.
 - i. Hopefully TSA had a successful event as well.
 - ii. We can get an update on TSA.
 - iii. TSA is sponsoring a canned food drive through Friday 13th.
 - iv. It's with a local drive that will be delivering canned goods to families who need it for Thanksgiving.
- 3. Updates from the Principal Kellie Lauth
 - a. Jennifer Mitchum received a prestigious award as one of the top Special Education Teachers in the state. Also Mandy Ruud.
 - b. We have our big Westin holiday party coming up.
 - i. We will not be having parent volunteers again.
 - ii. We take lots of pictures and post them online.
 - c. Thanksgiving is a week long this year.
 - d. Launch Plus has had some dwindling numbers.
 - i. Think due to the weather.
 - e. STEM Insparia event for 7th graders was a huge success.
 - i. We had poetry artists, songwriters, performance artists etc.
 - ii. The kids loved it.
 - iii. Very well attended.
 - iv. It was a great event.
 - v. We appreciate the support from everyone who came.
- 4. Updates from the Treasurer Alicia Nanez
 - a. The final total from ABC Fundraiser was \$19, 253.62
 - b. We did end up profiting off of Trunk or Treat and we had some money from Skate City.
 - c. So we have \$16, 989.01 left to award for grants this year.
- 5. Exchange Student Opportunities Andrea Overton
 - a. Qing Hua is here from Xing Xing Tech to tell us about some opportunities to bring some students over from China to experience the STEM model.
 - i. Co-founded by 3 moms.
 - ii. It's founded and based here in Colorado and Beijing, China.
 - iii. We were founded to provide STEM experiences for students from different countries and different cultures.
 - iv. We are also wanting to develop a STEM kit.
 - v. I grew up in China and got my degree there in Telecommunications and Electronics Engineering and came to

- Denver and got my MBA in Entrepreneurship from Univ. of CO., Boulder and MS in Telecommunications Univ. of CO., Boulder.
- vi. Kids in China work really hard, preparing for tests, but not getting a lot of hands on experience.
 - vii. Wanted to give them a chance to learn the American Style.
 - viii. It will give kids a chance to see how other kids learn.
 - ix. WE started with a summer camp and brought teachers for a 4 week session to Beijing with a total of 120 kids.
 - x. We had more kids that wanted to join, but this being our first time we wanted to see how it would go. There was also worried about a language barrier.
 - xi. We didn't know what to expect.
 - xii. Everyday we learned something from the kids and the parents.
 - xiii. Tracey Calderon from STEM Lab and Andrea Overton from STEM Launch, Shannon West, Thornton Elementary School and Eileen Patrick, Foss Webb came.
 - xiv. Some of the parents are asking if their kids can come over to experience the American style of learning.
 - xv. The kids were having so much fun.
 - xvi. We sent the pictures to families everyday and they got to see what their kids were doing.
 - xvii. So now we are wanting to do the winter camp and give kids and parents a chance here to learn from each other and experience that difference.
 - xviii. It would be during their winter vacation time.
 - xix. Kids would be attending classes here for a week.
 - xx. 12-24 kids 3rd-8th grade.
 - xxi. There is a proposed agenda of them arriving on a Saturday, January 23rd, with a meet and greet with the host families on Sunday. We want to give them a couple of days to adjust for the time difference and get the chance to visit some sights and see the snow here.
 - xxii. That's what we're really her for tonight. We really need some STEM families to open their doors to host these kids.
 - xxiii. The host family commitment isn't huge, but it would be mainly on those 5 nights that the kids are here.
 - xxiv. What is required of host families is to give them a safe place, feed them, make sure they sleep. They do need their own bed, can share a room as long as same gender kids.
 - xxv. Host families don't get paid. You do need to feed the child when they're with you. We will make sure students are clothed in a Launch uniform and get them to school. The kids will bring their own spending money.
 - xxvi. Host families will get a surprise gift.
 - xxvii. Students will come with insurance in case of an emergency.

- xxviii. We really want to give them an experience of what it would be like to live here as an American kid. We really don't want families to change anything about your life because that would defeat the purpose of their experience.
- xxix. There will be people to translate on sight at each campus in case any of the kids get overwhelmed.
- xxx. The students coming over are really focused on their academics, they're strong students and they and their families really want this opportunity.
- xxxi. If you're interested or know someone who is, the first thing to do is apply. There will be a background check and a home visit and interview process.
- xxxii. We will notify families in December and match families up.
- xxxiii. Starting November 18th, Qing will be offering a Mandarin class in Mrs. Overton's classroom, so you can bring your kids. It will be opened to host families first, but if there is room we will open it up to other families as well.
- xxxiv. We don't know if we will have all 24 kids to come over, but definitely will have 12.
- xxxv. We prefer that the kids are in a family with other kids.
- xxxvi. The application is a quick Google form and a more lengthy form that can be printed out and brought in.
- xxxvii. The application is on the STEM Lab website, but will be put up on the Launch website to come.
- xxxviii. We would love to be able to do this every year. If everything is positive and we have a great experience, then we want to do it every year.
- xxxix. If your child goes to BASE, we would make sure that there is enough people there to cover it. Xing Xing would cover those costs, the host family would not be responsible for those costs.
- xl. The deadline to apply is December 4th. If we need to extend it, we will. But will close early in December because we need to get everything ready on our end.

6. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:03.