

**Patterson PTA
General Meeting
Minutes
November 19, 2013**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting participants included: Michelle Bassi, Becky Swartz, Danielle Minnerick, Elaine Stecklein, Maura Finnerty, Liz Lawrence, Michelle Frost, Julie Mitchell, Esther DeSouza, Beata Emmens, Jennifer Zeisloft, Julie Heitman, Rita Malloy, Karen Young, Marisa Kamer, Laura Remack, Donna Widmann, Holly Morlock, Sarah McGinnis, Jorie Snyder, Robin Rippel, Brigitte Meger, Gira Rajan, Ellen Creaves, Loreedana Yamada, Lisa Pearce, Emily Dobry, Megan Fastabend, Ghousoun Alzaim

II. Approval of October 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes

With a motion from Karen Young and a second from Rita Malloy, the minutes of the October 8, 2013 general meeting were approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Susan Dubrodt, the director of the Patterson LMC, provided an overview of the online resources available for home use. She described the various data bases and the costs associated with maintaining these resources.

IV. Principal's Report

Michele Frost reported on the following items:

- ISAT scores have been released and the results indicate that Patterson has met its adequate yearly progress goals. She described the various efforts that are underway to help the school continue to meet its academic goals.
- Discussed the school's bully prevention program. Briefly discussed the PATHS program which was developed at Patterson.
- It was noted that the special events security plan for admitting large numbers of parents into the school has been successful and recognized by the District.

V. President's Report

Michelle Bassi reported on the following items:

- Information about the availability of classroom enrichment funds has been distributed to the teachers. \$75 per classroom is available this year.
- Over 1000 coats were collected with the District's annual coat drive.

- The District Heat Committee has developed initial recommendations regarding air conditioning in elementary schools and will soon be presenting these findings to the school board.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Becky Swartz provided an update on the PTA budget. She explained that the budget line item for Pictures with Pete was exceeded due to an unanticipated increase in picture orders. A motion by Lisa Pearce with a second by Janet Juarez to increase the Pictures with Pete budget line item to \$92.30 to accommodate the unanticipated increase in picture orders with the understanding that the additional revenues raised from these orders is sufficient to cover the increase in the budget was approved. Becky provided an overview of expenses that have been incurred to date including field trip funding, classroom enrichment, assignment notebooks and the directory. She noted that there is a balance of \$20,500 and that taking into account the \$5,000 reserve, the PTA has \$15,000 for the remainder of the year.

VII. Vice Presidents Reports

- Finance/Fund Raising – Danielle Minnerick reported on the following items:
 1. The carnival met its financial goals bringing in \$18,361 and came in under budget by \$300 netting a profit of \$14,900. She noted that the silent auction collected \$7,700 with half of these funds coming from the classroom baskets. A decision on whether to continue the carnival will be made after a survey about the carnival and other fundraising options is completed.
 2. Butter Braid was a successful fundraiser bringing in \$400 more than anticipated.
 3. The Sharkos restaurant fundraiser made \$100.
 4. It was noted that working with Boomers this year for spirit wear has been disastrous and efforts will be made to find a new vendor for next year.
- Administrative/Service – Elaine Stecklein reported on the following items:
 1. The Greeter Desk is still short of volunteers though there are enough to keep it minimally staffed for this year.
 2. Lori Rose and her committee were thanked for the successful lunch for American Education Week.
 3. Assignment notebooks for 2nd semester have gone to the printers.
 4. Esther DeSouza has volunteered to serve as chairman for Field Day.
 5. Planning is underway for the winter parties and recruitment for Sock Hop volunteers has started.
- Enrichment/Social – Liz Lawrence reported on the following items:
 1. Per Emily Dobry, the STEM Committee had a successful planning meeting regarding the Science Fair that will be held on February 12, and the Academy Day that will be held on April 25.
 2. The Brown Baggers program is starting up the week of January 13.
 3. The Community Service Committee is conducting a book drive in December. It was noted that there will be caroling at two local nursing homes on December 3 and December 12. It was also noted that bracelets, donated by Jan Shrier and Christine Champion will be sold at school to raise funds for the Philippines'

hurricane relief efforts. There was also discussion on what can be done to help with Washington, IL tornado relief efforts.

4. It was noted by Gira Rajan that 40 students participated in the Reflections program with 20 students advancing to the next level of competition.

VIII. Old Business

The school's arrival/dismissal procedures were discussed. Concerns were raised that parents aren't following procedures causing delays and safety concerns. It was noted that parents should be encouraged to become familiar with the arrival/dismissal procedures and work to insure everyone's safety.

IX. New Business

It was noted that the Patterson World Café Diversity and Climate Teams is sponsoring a new Parent/ Student/Staff book study starting Feb. 19th, 2014 with 2 follow-up meetings. The book Wonder by RJ Palacio will be read. It is recommended for students in 4th & 5th grade, but open to 3rd grade students with parental guidance. More information about the program will be available in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.