



Norton Creek

Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting Minutes

February 02, 2024 9:30 AM

Meeting called to order by Elisa Ignash @ 9:30AM

In Attendance (In-Person)

Elisa Ignash, Stephanie McCubbin, Elizabeth Doren, Jennifer Reyes, Tony White, Clare Keeney, Shannon Dahlem, Amy Maritote, Stine Reopelle, Kristi Culver, Rose Klippel, Katie Nanak, Kristin Beavers, Amy Bulauski, Carolyn Carlson, Kaisa Davis, Chrissy Cannone, Melanie Lenertz, Karen Morici, Mayra Murphy, and Jennifer Denison.

In Attendance (ZOOM)

Shannon Ring

Approval of Minutes - Jennifer Reyes

- January 2024 minutes ([Found Here](#)) have been sent out via multifacet communications. A motion to approve the PTO board minutes was made by Jennifer Reyes, seconded by Elizabeth Doren, and passed with a unanimous vote from all in attendance.

President's Report - Elisa Ignash

- Don't forget about box tops
- This month we have 1st grade and 4th grade field trips.
- All students will receive a leap year fun fact sheet and frog on Leap day from the PTO.
- If we're going to offer school supply kits this year we need a committee chair asap, please reach out to Elisa. School supply kits offer a monetary savings and convenience to our families.

Principal's Report - Tony White

- Watch your email for the 5 essentials survey for parents. Measures safety of the school, effectiveness of the school etc. In order for the school to see the results there must be at least 20% response rate. Please complete the survey.
- 3/5/24 only applies to 4th graders this year. NAP assessment will be given by the department of education. This is a random selection.
- IAR is coming in March.
- AT qualification is going to be slightly different moving forward. COGAT and IReady will be the tests used to determine placement.
- End of year party date is changing. After discussing with those in attendance, the party will remain on the last day of school, now be moved to the last day of school, 5/30/24.
- Field day will be Tuesday, 5/29.

- Our current playground has a broken slide that was waterlogged, froze, and cracked. Cost to replace the slide is 2K. Since we are getting a brand new playground this summer the slide is not going to be replaced.
- 2/05 is the meeting for boundary revisions. 2/12 will be the meeting for a vote.

Teachers Report- NA

Treasurer's Report – Elizabeth Doren

- Updated staff check request is live on the PTO website.
- Room parents don't forget to submit your receipts. This is a 1 time submission of \$100 total.
- Bank balance as of 1/28/24 is \$31,334 and paypal at \$96.

Committee Reports

AVIC-Katie Nanak

- February is Art to Remember month. Students will be creating an art project that parents will have the opportunity to purchase art merchandise.
- 25% of proceeds will come back to the AVIC program.
- Some merchandise items are stickers, ornaments, night lights, garden flag, mugs etc. They make great gifts.
- This program is reaching every student.

Eagles Eat Out- Elisa Ignash

- January was Panera Bread which brought in \$306.
- Up next is Portillos on 2/8/24 from 5-8pm for a 20% donation to the PTO. Don't forget to mention Norton Creek when ordering.
- Year to date earnings \$2892.09.
- Eagles Eat Out is looking for a shadow to take over next school year. Reach out if you are interested in hearing more.

Basket Raffle- Stephanie McCubbin

- Friday, April 26th.
- If anyone has a business that would consider monetary donations please see Steph. There is an email drafted and ready to go. We have received many material donations and would like monetary donations to make purchases. A parent suggested finding a connection to car dealerships, realtors, mortgage lenders or dental offices.
- We have a Cheddar Up link that can be sent to receive these donations.
- Karen Morici has volunteered to provide music at basket raffle.

Cougars Reading Club- Elisa Ignash

- Elisa & Steph are shadowing Stephanie Ross. Kick off is 2/5/24 and ends 4/1/24.
- Game is on 5/17/24 @ 6:30pm with a hot dog and drink package.
- Recording books and pages not required. Just a date is acceptable.

One School One Book-Elisa Ignash

- Books have been ordered!
- This year's book is The One and Only Ivan.
- Begins 2/26/24 with a Mon-Thurs reading schedule. Program will end after spring break to allow catch up if needed.
- Foreign language books are on the way for our students who need alternate languages.
- Working on securing the family night event. Hoping to have the movie showing at the Arcada.
- Mrs. Lorenz will provide trivia questions in morning announcements.

Staff Appreciation-Clare Keeney & Shannon Dahlem

- 2/13/24 Soup Situation up next. Volunteer slots going live on 2/4.
- 3/19/24 is going to be a taco bar.
- No event in April to allow planning for appreciation week in May.

Ice Cream Float Event-Elisa Ignash

- "Float into summer" float event. Ice cream will be pre-scooped into a cup and placed into the deep freezer. Root Beer or Fanta will be poured on top and covered with a lid and straw. Float eliminates sticky mess within the moment scooping and toppings of traditional ice cream social.
- 5/29/24 date from 6-7:30pm.
- Possibly offer some type of entertainment, send ideas to Elisa if you want to help.

RISE Buddy Club-Karen Morici

- 8 committed families after reaching out to RISE families. Thursday, 3/14/24 will be the 1st meet up.
- Next step will be presenting to the 4th grade classrooms.
- Club will need parent volunteers

New Business

- Birthday book chair, Kaisa Davis is requesting an \$800 increase to the birthday book budget. Total budget of \$2000. Average per book is now about \$4 each. In the past Kaisa would purchase large quantities at warehouse sales but finding a warehouse sale is becoming harder to find. Kaisa made a motion for the increased budget, seconded by Elizabeth Doren and approved by all in attendance.
- Elisa Ignash is requesting approval to have the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance dancers come to Norton Creek to provide a cultural experience for students. 20-30 minute dance, teach students a step, have been on the Tonight Show and Good Morning America. Motion for \$500 (2 shows) made by Elisa Ignash and seconded by Elizabeth Doren, approved by all in attendance. Details on how to execute the assembly will be worked out with Tony.
- Science Night- Planning to partner with NIU for a STEAM family night on 3/8/24, 90-120 minutes. In order to make this event
- possible 32 parent or teacher volunteers will be needed or we cannot offer it. Elisa reached out to multiple STCE clubs/teams for volunteer help also. Cost will be \$3000. Includes 12 full light exhibits, several dark room exhibits and a show. Elisa Ignash motioned to approve the \$3000 science night expense, seconded by Amy Maritote and approved by all in attendance.

Open Discussion/Comments-ALL

- Kaisa Davis asked if there is for sure no Variety Show. Kristi Culver said she signed up to chair variety show but there wasn't a co-chair volunteer. Kaisa asked about the Munhall lip sync show. The two of them are going to look into it.
- Jennifer Denison asked for brainstorming from the group on bettering the communication between the district, school and PTO. The district is going away from a curriculum night, printing IReady results, printing report cards. Parents have to be cognizant of when to jump through hurdles to access this information. Jennifer says that when she contacted the district she was told that in 2 years the district will be moving to a new platform for accessing all of this information. In the meantime, how can we make communication better?
- A parent asked if there is a requirement for teachers to send newsletters. Tony explained that there is an expectation of communication but a newsletter is not required.
- Many parents in the room inquired about correspondence with teachers and what is the appropriate expectation for reply. Tony explained that this year the new systems have placed large expectations on the teachers. Tony explained that teachers are balancing a lot with changes this year. Many in the room shared examples for Tony where teacher communication would be helpful. Tony plans to speak to the teachers on the topic of communication.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:30pm in the LRC.

Elisa Ignash motioned to end the meeting, Tony White seconded, all in attendance in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52AM

Elisa Ignash PTO President

Jennifer Reyes, PTO Secretary

Stephanie McCubbin, PTO Vice President

Elizabeth Doren, PTO Treasurer