LUCAS ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 2012

Attendance: Joe Pavelich, Joe Bell, Ann Campion, Ben Hill, Dave Snyder, Jun-Nicole Matsushita, Renee Speh, Ruthina West, Leslie Veit, Mary Kenyon, Julia Burton, Sarah Lynch

1. Guest Students:
    a. What is planet recapture?
        i. A grassroots movement to bring kids away from TV and into nature. Founded 9/2011
        ii. Sustainable fundraising
        iii. Clean up environment
        iv. Meet at least once a month
        v. Kids, parents, friends all work together
        vi. Volunteers for the dept. of nat res IOWATER program by testing water quality
        vii. Advised by the dept. of nat resources, faculty of UIowa, and Cornell College
        viii. Safety equipment training from city of IC
        ix. All decisions by consensus
        x. Several local businesses sponsor (Fareway, dominoes)
        xi. More than 100 kids and parents participated in fall
        xii. Over 1000 pound of recyclables and trash removed from willow creek pond and park.
        xiii. Twelve pages of water quality uploaded to IOWA database for analyze.
        xiv. Pop tabs for charity and the cost (carbon footprint and charity $ raised)
        xv. Box Tops cost
        xvi. Planet recapture pledge:
            1. Buy generic foods or bulk organic
            2. No soda or sports drinks
            3. Parents keep the savings or give rest to charity

        Planet Recapture at Lucas

            Just a few parents to be leaders

        Planet Recapture will help Lucas set up independent group and work projects

        Teach students and families to better improve our environment and save money overall.

    b. Envision that all students across the district work together. Currently over 100 involved.
2. PRESIDENTS REPORT:
    a. Women's game this Saturday. Low turn out this year and wondering where went wrong. As of today, only have 16ish families. To help in future, let Joe know what was reason it

didn't work. Should we skip a year? Etc. Still tickets available if interested. Can contact Joe Bell. Up until Thursday they will email your tickets to you for printing off. Can also bring form with you to the game and get the discounted ticket price. Delago Mexican Cafe is open to all Lucas Families, even if not attending the game. Dave and Joe will work with the Iowa Marketing Department so next year it is a smoother operation.

b. Spelling Bee: Good roll out on Friday. March 6th and 8th. 3rd and 4th grade on 8th, 1, 2, 5, 6 will be on the 6th. Packets will be out by midweek next week. Model rounds of the bee will be available. Joe Pavelich will contact volunteers directly. Have list of previous volunteers and any others interested can also join in. Helpful if you are able to volunteer both days. Grades 1-6.
c. Proposal for next month: Priority is to decide what to do with fundraising money. How much to spend and what to spend it on.
d. Motion next month about catering teacher conferences.
e. Officers are in April.
f. March is all about Fun Night.
g. Feb 13th @ 7pm is next PTO meeting in the Library.

3. TREASURERS REPORT: See handout.
4. PRINCIPALS REPORT:
    a. Ran our discipline reports. 30% fewer office referrals than this time last year.
    b. Received okay from director of technology that will honor original quote. Smart board will be 1200 as opposed to new price of 2600. We won another smart board from Hy-Vee. That smart board will go to Nathan Kelly's room. Hy-Vee will come do another presentation, but it isn't scheduled yet.
5. GUEST SPEAKER: FRED MEYER WITH BACKYARD ABUNDANCE
    a. Nature explore playscapes
    b. Educational playscapes
        i. About backyard abundance
        ii. Local playscapes, nature explore
        iii. Importance of children in nature
    c. Vision: local non-profit, beautiful, resilient, etc. Urban spaces can support us better than they do now and also support wildlife habitat.
    d. Yard tours, workshops, presentations, landscape designs
    e. Nature deficit disorder- "direct exposure to nature is essential for the physical and emotional health of children and adults." From Richard Louv's Last Child in the Woods
    f. Willowwind Prairie- Bio retention cell in front. Children based curriculum on the seeds that are planted and where they would best be suited within the cell. Passion for learning involved.
    g. Wetherby Park- edible forest maze- mimics a healthy woodland- fruit trees, berries, perennials that will feed us, attract insects and support birds.
    h. Recreation center division garden- fruit trees, plum shrubs, currents, etc… go out and find perennial food. Created outdoor classroom. Space where kids can learn. Maharishi School in Fairfield (see sep. handout): Wanted an outdoor classroom and a food forest.
        i. The Woodlands: Forest habitat, observation, drawing

ii. Sparkling springs: underground rain barrel fed from roof rain water, water conservation
iii. Hummingbird cottage: made of cob: sand, clay and straw. Has a living roof: sedum on one side and strawberries on the other side.

i. Nature explore is a program developed between the Arbor Day foundation and the dimensions education research foundation. Design principles are wrapped up in a book. Each space as a specific use to invoke a type of learning.
j. Existing playgrounds have a threshold for levels of activity. Kids can eventually become bored. The natural playspaces have unlimited uses and creative outlets.
k. Children and nature have been studied. Observation and creativity go up when children spend more time outside. Improved concentration. The more time outside, the greater the benefits. They heighten the same skills they learn in the classroom when out in nature.
l. Backyard abundance and abundant playscapes have partnered to do research in Johnson County. Every family had different goals. Kids have a strong hand in the plan/design. Many playscapes grow food. Kids are also involved in the construction. Teach why we are doing this. Support wildlife, families learning together, role models, help and observation opportunities.
m. Nature is our greatest teacher.
n. Funding: There are many resources to provide funding for these types of projects, but having a budget in mind is also helpful. Part of our make a mighty difference will be our starting point for this project.
o. Additional handout on research/references. And a handout on a garden gala. Also business card available.
p. Meeting Thursday at 10:30 regarding Lucas and how Backyard Abundance will fit into our space.

6. PROCUREMENT DISCUSSION
   A. WHAT/HOW MUCH TO PURCHASE USING MMD FUNDS
7. NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC (See President's Report)
8. ADJOURN