



Norton Creek

Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2022 5:30 PM

Meeting called to order by Elisa Ignash @ 5:33pm

In Attendance (In-Person) Elisa Ignash, Jennifer Reyes, Elizabeth Doren, Stephanie McCubbin, Tony White, Karen Morici, Clare Keeney, Jennifer Dennison, & Hannah Mesick

In Attendance (ZOOM)

Jessica Klepacki

Approval of Minutes - Jennifer Reyes

- March 2023 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 Tony White, and passed with a unanimous vote from all in attendance.

President's Report-Elisa Ignash

- 3rd Grade Enrichment- for their Current Business Unit the PTO connected with the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce to invite 2 local businesses in to answer questions and speak with the students about what it's like to own businesses. Teachers loved it, students had great questions and were engaged. We're calling this a success!
- The 3rd Grade Business Night is coming up at the end of April.
- 4th Grade Enrichment-We teamed up with Tony and he recruited our Superintendent to come in Mid-April to speak to the 4th graders about being Lifelong Learners. Tony is still working on getting the Mayor of West Chicago to come in as well for the 4th graders.
- DuPage Children's Museum-1st grade labs are done. Kindergarten and 2nd grade are scheduled in April.
- We found out the RISE team was hosting a bake sale. Staff signs up to make the baked goods then staff purchases the items from the RISE students that are working the shop. There is a greeter, a bagger, a cashier, salesperson etc. We reached out to see how we could make it the best enrichment opportunity possible for the students. They requested help setting up and breaking down the event, decorating the space and with funds (had a vinyl sign printed at Walgreens that will be reused, saved the decorations for another round or two of use also, gave each staff member a couple of PTO bucks to spend at the bake sale so the students had plenty of customers and transactions) This event earned enough for a train ride trip and to fund tram rides for their Brookfield Zoo trip!
- AlphaGraphics has agreed to match the Library's color printing price for the Norton Creek PTO at 20 cents/page so we have professional quality color printing moving forward.
 - One sided, standard size paper, no bleed lines

Principal's Report - Tony White

- Tony gave thank you to parents for the job well done with 4/4/23 remote learning day. He asked for feedback from those in attendance. Elizabeth Doren said Mrs. Berry did an excellent job. Her children had never experienced remote learning and she felt it was done well. Jennifer Dennison said that her children enjoyed it so much that they wished it had been longer. Jennifer Reyes suggested 1 lunch time for all grades should a remote learning day be needed in the future.
- Tony gave the reminder that IAR testing starts Monday for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Preliminary results will come in over the summer and parents will have results in November.
- Tony mentioned that we are in the final stretch of the school year with lots in store for our Eagles. 1st & 3rd grade concert, basket raffle, One School One Book.
- Jennifer Dennison asked for more information regarding parents needing finger printing. She wanted to be educated on the process so that she could help other parents in the future. Tony explained that the requirements on who should be printed comes from the district and that the district keeps changing the requirements. Parents need to be fingerprinted if they will be in the building unsupervised by a staff member.
- Tony gave a reminder that field day is coming and volunteers will be needed.
 - Elisa requested this date be provided soon so that working parents have an opportunity to request off of work.

Teachers Report

- April Schippers reached out to say that she loves Wishtree and she is looking forward to One School One Book.

Treasurer's Report – Elizabeth Doren

- Current bank balance is about \$41,000. Elizabeth did not have a chance to pull the exact amount since she came to the meeting directly from work.
- Please remember to submit receipts for reimbursements.

Committee Reports

- **Eagles Eat Out** -Elisa Ignash
 - April is discounted Dairy Queen cakes. The cake typically sells for \$30.99 and ours will be sold for \$20 each in this promotion, offering a \$10.99 savings with purchase. This partnership gives \$10 per cake back to the PTO. Purchaser will receive a voucher to redeem the cake May 2023 through November 2023. This year DQ cake sales will have a contest attached for the students. The class that sells the most cakes as a whole will receive a free mini blizzard (not during school).
 - May will be Portillos on 5/11 5-8pm.
- **Basket Raffle & Bingo**
 - Event is scheduled 4/28/23 from 4:30pm-7pm with a rain date of 5/5/23.

Bingo and baskets will be indoors and food for purchase from food trucks will be outdoors. Food trucks present will be Kona Ice, Fernando's Street Kitchen, and Toasty Cheese.

Elisa Ignash was told by Tony that in years past the baskets were raffled throughout the night creating a winning all night long vibe. Elisa searched the drive for details and found information to present to the basket raffle team. Tony felt strongly that pulling during the evening was a great idea. Clare Keeney agreed with the idea stating that those with younger children who might not stay the entire time but their kids would still get to feel the excitement. She also suggested posting in advance when specific baskets would be pulled so that families had enough time to get tickets into their desired baskets.

Jennifer Reyes questioned why the event starts so early. Plan to mention this to the basket raffle team.

Mrs. Rich and Mrs. Vazquez have agreed to be bingo callers at the event and Student Council has been asked to help with the bingo portion of the event.

- **Ice Cream Social-Karen Morici**

- Event is scheduled for 5/19/23 from 5-7pm. Karen explained that with all the research completed it has been determined that ice cream is expensive. Karen is requesting a budget increase to complete this event.
- Karen presented 2 different budgets. Both options include the ice cream, entertainment & prizes. Option 1=Dippin' Dots total budget needed \$1770 and option 2=Colonial Cafe total budget needed \$1003.
- The group discussed the 2 options. Dippin Dots requires less volunteers because the carts come staffed. Elizabeth Doren pointed out that Dippin Dots are gluten free so this is a plus. Elisa Ignash asked Karen to find out if a discount would be given if we pay in cash. Karen will inquire. Clare Keeney asked if we had less flavors would there be less cost and suggested only offering 2 flavor choices. Jennifer Reyes suggested removing the magician as a way to go with Dippin Dots and reduce cost.
- The room agreed that either option would require a higher budget. The budget is currently \$500 and a motion was made by Elizabeth Doren to increase the budget by \$1000. Elisa Ignash seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

- **Science Night/Club Recap-Elizabeth Doren**

- March is Science month for Norton Creek made up by Elizabeth Doren! Elizabeth reports a science club success. We had a total of 83 students. Last meeting all the kids were able to write their names on paper that will go to space with NASA on the Mars Rover. Students will be able to track their names on the NASA website.
- Mad Science show received good feedback. The show was great and the stations were OK. Clare Keeney recommended having ropes to section off the different experiments if we choose to have them back. The experiments in the gym were overwhelming and hard to determine what was happening.
- Elizabeth Doren said she would love to have a science fair next year. Tony White said he enjoys her passion for science and providing a spotlight on a great

subject. In elementary school science tends to come last so the focus on science has been great. He is unsure about a fair because it can be a polarizing concept. You might not get the engagement you are looking for and it can become limiting.

- Clare Keeney offered the suggestion for next year to have the science club be broken into age groups. It was extremely difficult to engage the kids in a breakout group of 20 kids of all ages.
- Elisa Ignash suggested a capacity for enrollment and then requesting additional parent volunteers to increase the enrollment.

- **Teacher Appreciation-Clare Keeney**

- Teacher Appreciation Week - May 1-5
- Schedule:
 - **Monday:** Principal Snack & Drink Delivery
 - All snacks/drinks donated by families
 - **Tuesday:** Breakfast Club & Candy Bar
 - Made-to-order breakfast sandwiches
 - Build your own yogurt & oatmeal bar
 - Coffee and donuts donated by the Vaghani Family - owner of a local Dunkin' location
 - **Wednesday:** Olive Garden Lunch
 - Still looking for sponsor - \$1,100
 - **Thursday:** Spa and Charcuterie Day
 - Massages tentative
 - **Friday:** Fiesta Lunch & Teacher 1 Hour Break - Student Movie
 - La Huerta - Still looking for sponsor - \$1,000

- Other Plans:

- Social Media Highlights - 87 staff members including
 - **Monday:** 5 Office Staff Members and The Lunch/Recess Team
 - **Tuesday:** 18 Specialty/Specials Teachers
 - **Wednesday:** 9 Student Support Services Team Members/8 Bus Drivers and 3 aids
 - **Thursday:** 22 Support Staff
 - **Friday:** 22 Classroom Teachers
- Decorations in the school and staff lounge
- Bus Driver Care Packages
- Appreciation Table - hallway with the recess cart - notes to teachers/staff
- Teacher Giveaway
 - Gift Cards and Products donated by NC families and local businesses - randomly selected by teachers and staff

- Riverside Pizza, The Graceful Ordinary, Kimmers, Starbucks, Home Depot, Lowes, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and The Noble House

Donations:

- \$1,000 left in our budget will be allocated once donations are closed
 - Decorations, Ice, Gift Cards, etc.
- 42 Families donated so far

One School One Book

- Books have arrived! One School One Book will be 4/24-5/15. Families will read assigned chapters each night. Lindy Lorenz will provide access to recorded chapters for students to listen to if they are unable to do the family reading at home.
- There will be chapter related trivia during the day at school.
- Jennifer Dennison mentioned that while on the subject of books, why was there no sticker in her child's birthday book as discussed in a previous meeting. Elisa was surprised to hear this since we just had new stickers printed, said she will find out what happened.

New Business

- **Benches**
 - Using the \$3,800 brought in from Eagles Eat Out to date and additional funds, the PTO would like to purchase a 6' buddy bench (\$798.85) and a coordinating 8' bench (\$638.85) for the playground as well as four 6' benches (\$878.85/each) for the school entrance.
 - 10% discount negotiated with bench company to reduce cost, total for benches is \$4981.87
 - The room discussed the benches in 2 options. Option 1- playground benches + concrete only. Option 2-playground benches + concrete and front entrance benches.
 - After discussion, Jennifer Reyes made a motion for option 2-all benches + concrete seconded by Tony White. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
- **Card Readers**
 - Paypal card readers are no longer operational. Elizabeth Doren proposed the purchase of 2 new card readers that work with Cheddar Up. Readers are \$59 each. Jennifer Reyes recommended the purchase of 4 total Readers. Stephanie McCubbin also wants 4 readers.
 - A motion was made by Elizabeth Doren for the purchase of 4 readers and seconded by Clare Keeney. All in favor, motion passes.

Open Discussion/Comments-ALL

- Tony White mentioned that he sees Munhall car magnets all around town. Thinks it is pretty cool and wondered if it would be possible to spread the Norton Creek magnets? Jennifer Reyes explained that she tried to put it on her car but husband didn't care for the magnet on the car. If it was a window decal it would be better. Clare Keeney said she may have a contact with a great price. Clare will forward info to Jennifer Reyes.
- Karen Morici wanted to plant the seed for a club she would like to add next school year based on the question raised last meeting by Bonnie Galbraith about why RISE students don't have lunch recess with their grade level? Karen plans to create an afterschool club similar to best buddies. RISE students will be able to engage in activities with their peers specific to their needs,

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, May 02, 2023 at 5:30pm.

Tony White motioned to end the meeting, Clare Keeney seconded, all in attendance in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm

Elisa Ignash PTO President

Jennifer Reyes, PTO Secretary

Stephanie McCubbin, PTO Vice President

Elizabeth Doren, PTO Treasurer