

Michael Collins PTA Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2025 / 6:00 pm

- I. Meeting started at 6:05pm. Attendees: Jennifer Durso, Nell Haack, Ashley Kaczmarczyk, Emmy Kamien, Celeste Render, Katie Szwaja, and Stefanie Vogt.
- II. Principal's Report
 - We cancelled our last meeting in February due to the snow day.
 - Bingo for Books was a success!
 - IAR testing in process. Students are feeling positive and well-prepared.
 - 2nd graders went on Spring Valley field trip.
 - We return from Spring Break on April 2, 2025.
 - Spring Fling parties are coming up, teachers are collecting materials.
 - We will have an all-school belonging day when we return to reset and recharge.
 - District-wide fundraiser to benefit the American Cancer Society.
 - o Dates are April 14th-May 2nd.
 - o Student ambassadors will be helping.
 - o Connected to Frost, the middle school we feed into.
 - o April 11th we will fundraise, possibly a treat day and may need some PTA help.
 - Lincoln Prairie has a treat day almost every week, i.e. Starbucks cake pops, Auntie Anne's pretzels, etc.
 - Additional ideas – Krispy Kreme donuts, Costco bulk items.
 - Parents fill out a form, similar to a hot lunch form.
 - Friday, May 9th will be a school celebration.
 - o Maybe one grade-level at a time, outside, possibly water balloons with the sling shot.
- III. President's Report
 - STC Meeting –
 - o National dues will increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25.
 - Haven't increased since 2011.
 - Illinois state dues will remain at \$2.25.
 - We currently charge \$10/ membership, and probably don't need to raise.
 - Village Tavern Dine to Donate went well, good attendance.
 - District 54 Foundation wants to do bigger things, including childcare, temporary shelter, etc.
 - o Golf outing scheduled for June 9th and helps the whole district.
 - We need to change the date of the Fun Fair. It is the 6th grade night at junior highs. In the future, avoid the last Friday of April.
 - o Possible dates to change the Fun Fair to: Friday, May 2nd or May 9th. Celeste will reach out to Flavia.
 - o Consider two sessions for the Fun Fair and think about the layout.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - Balance as of February 28, 2025: \$60,771.24.
 - We are taking a pass this year on excess funds due to rising costs. We will revisit early in the fall.
 - Check writing is tedious. Consider an Amazon wish list to make it more efficient.
- V. Past Events
 - January 30: Guzman y Gomez Dine to Donate, 4:00-8:00 pm. Raised \$144.70.
 - February 11: Bingo for Books
 - o Amazing, positive feedback.

- o Incredible volunteers. Shared at STC Meeting.
- February 12: PTA Meeting (Cancelled – Snow Day)
- February 18: Culver's Dine to Donate, 4:00-8:00 pm. Raised \$348.38.
- March 11: Village Tavern Dine to Donate, 11:00am-11:00pm. Raised \$192.25.

VI. Upcoming Events

- March 14: PTA STC Auction at Belvedere, 5:00 pm.
 - o Post-prom – Comfortable pants and shoes with fancy hair and make-up.
- March 20: 4th Grade Concert – Music Program
 - o Rooms 201, 202 and 203: Students arrive at 5:00pm, performance at 5:15 pm.
 - o Rooms 204, 205 and 206: Students arrive at 6:00pm, performance at 6:15 pm.
- March 21: Fling into Spring Classroom Parties
- April 8 & 9: Bookfair
 - o Do we want Nell to send a volunteer sign up?
- April 9: PTA Meeting
- April 10: STEM Fair, 6:00-7:30pm
 - o 3rd – 6th grade
- ~~April 25:~~ Fun Fair – Changing date.
- May 14: Kindergarten Round-up, 3:00-4:00 pm
 - o Ashley will call and ask about Andy's Frozen Custard (~100, about 82 registered).
- May 14: PTA Scholarship Dinner
 - o No information yet.
- May 16: Celebrate Reading and Writing
 - o Author – Jarett Lerner
 - o Website with lots of interactive activities.
 - o Celeste will ask if Ashley can get books from that author for the book fair.
- May 21: PTA Changeover Dinner
- May 22: Track and Field Day
- May 23: 6th Grade Celebration
 - o Initial meeting went well. Tuesday, March 18th is the next meeting, 6-7:00pm.
 - o Save the date sent out.
 - o Picture request form sent out.
 - o Let Nell know near the end if a kid hasn't returned a form or money.
 - o Nell will send email to 6th grade teachers to get sizes.
 - Same vendor as the spirit wear, can pull samples for the kids to see in the office.
 - Order shirts after spring break.
 - o DJ is booked. \$300 cash at the event.
 - o Last year, we ran out of food.
 - o Advertise what food will be there.
 - o Servers were not communicated how to pass out and use signage, i.e. 1 slice of pizza, 1 bag of chips, etc.
 - o Suggest students wait and sit with their families for food. It might be the only time spent with family, afterwards, will be off with friends.
 - o Lisa or Zoe will have the picture of the 6th grade class as a takeaway.
 - o Follow up with teachers on picture envelopes.
 - o No Kona Ice. Possibly popcorn and boxes of candy.
- May 30: Plan of Works Due for 2025-26
- TBD/Spring: Basketball Shootout – Confirming date with Mr. Cahoj

VII. Grade Level Events

- Kindergarten: Donuts with Grownups and Wheel of Wisdom
- 1st Grade: Donuts with Grownups and Wheel of Wisdom

- 2nd Grade: Campfire Night and Wheel of Wisdom
- 3rd Grade: Mathnasium, Basketball Shootout and Wheel of Wisdom
- 4th Grade: Concert, Basketball Shootout and Wheel of Wisdom
- 5th Grade: Mathnasium and Wheel of Wisdom
- 6th Grade: 6th Grade Celebration and Wheel of Wisdom

VIII. Committees

- Audit Committee
- Back to School Committee
 - Ordered folders and assignment notebooks.
- Birthday Book Club
- Book Fair
- Dine to Donate
 - PF Chang's, scheduled for Wednesday, April 23.
- Family Fun Nights
 - Have we ever done an event off-site?
 - Celeste will reach out how schools are doing off-site events.
 - We reserved a section one year at a Boomers game.
 - Multicultural event for next year.
 - Aldrin is willing to share ideas.
 - Engage the multi-lingual team, we could get volunteers to help.
 - Assign a region/ country for grade levels.
- Fun Fair
- Holiday Shop
- Hospitality
- Hot Lunch
 - We are starting to reach out to new vendors. Egg Harbor is willing to work with us.
 - Consider surveying 3rd/4th/5th graders to see what they suggest.
- Landscaping
 - Lauren Venlos is interested, possibly this could be a club next year.
- Membership
 - We do what they suggest increasing membership.
- Nominating Committee
- Reflections
 - We did not have anyone who fell into the botched email group.
- Scholarships
 - Paper forms are in the office.
 - We want to promote it, as long as someone doesn't win two years in a row.
- School Supply Kits
 - We just got approval. Celeste will send link.
 - After a certain date, have to pay for shipping to house.
 - Can customize if they already have supplies.
- Spirit Wear
 - Start the year with new designs.
- STC Auction
- Yearbook
 - They are working on layouts and making sure they have all the clubs.
- 6th Grade Celebration