

Fellows Elementary School PTO, Inc. Meeting  
October 11th, 2011

The meeting was called to order by PTO president Courtney Witte at 7:05pm.

**Attendance**

Courtney Witte (president), Michelle Lenkaitis (treasurer), Heidi Chopskie (secretary), Carol Page (principal), Shena Jackson, Christy Franco, Jill Lowman, Jehan Faisal, Aimee Eigsti, Kara Berg, Helen Blitvitch, Alejandra Pedraja, Kendra Braucher, Elise Wright, and Kelly Conner

**Approval of September Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the September board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

**School Directories**

Due to budget cuts, the student directories were eliminated this year. Each student was sent home with a homeroom class list with address and phone number contact information. Some parents have inquired about getting an online student directory. Courtney will look into creating a PDF file that could be accessed by parents and add no cost to the budget.

**Scrip**

Scrip signs need to be put out on Thursday after school and be brought back in Friday morning after the Scrip sales are completed. Karen Wolters would like to purchase gift cards to be used to sell for Scrip sales. A motion was made to approve \$75 to be used to purchase gift card holders and have the holders be available for purchase for an additional \$0.25 each. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

**Facebook**

The Fellows PTO, Inc. Facebook page is updated and will be used to send out reminders about current events at the school. Parents are invited to "like" the page to be updated on the latest news.

**Yearbook**

Kara Berg has offered to take over the yearbook committee for the 2012-2013 school year.

**Great American**

The Great American fundraising forms were sent home with students. Sample products are available in the front display window.

**Treasurer's Report**

The budget was under by \$176.00 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Current Balances as of 9/30/2011

**Main Account Balance** \$25821.39

**Scrip Balance** \$6742.80

### **PTO Funds**

The PTO has approximately \$10,000 available to be given out to the school this year in addition to the 2011-2012 budget items. Ideas for use of this money include leveled reading books, grants for each grade level, Ipads and Ipods. Ipods are available through Apple and would be used in listening stations. Refurbished Ipads are available for \$399.00 through Apple. PTO could purchase 25 refurbished iPads and have them available to check out or have them available for each grade level on a rotating schedule. Another idea is to use the money for grants for each grade level and have collaboration among teachers to purchase items for the entire grade. Money could also be used for individual classroom grants. Carol will talk with the teachers and find out what their current needs are, and provide feedback at the next PTO meeting. A parent questioned why there is no money for leveled reading books. Carol reported that it is not in the school budget to buy the necessary number of leveled reading books that are needed. The Ames Education Foundation will be presenting a district wide opportunity for a fundraiser for leveled books. A vote will be taken at the November meeting to decide how the money will be used. Alejandra Pedraja offered to research grant opportunities for technology.

### **Dinner Fundraisers**

An idea was brought up to look into local dinner fundraisers. Local establishments who participate in dinner fundraisers may require participants to bus tables or they may not require any participation. Proceeds range from 10 percent of all sales during a certain time period or 10 percent of sales throughout the day. This fundraising opportunity could be used for a specific need for a classroom or grade.

### **Conference Week Lunch**

Michelle Lenkaitis and Heidi Chopskie are coordinating food items for teachers and staff for fall conference week. The menu for conference week will include Hickory Park, Panera Soup and Meat and Cheese deli trays. Parent volunteers will be contacted and asked to provide side dishes and desserts.

### **Principal's Report**

The November PTO meeting has been changed (due to conference week) from November 8th, to November 15th at 7pm. Tim Taylor is tentatively scheduled to attend the November PTO meeting. Once confirmed, the meeting location will be changed to the multi-purpose room at Fellows. Flyers will be placed around the school and notes will be sent home to let parents know that Mr. Taylor will be attending the PTO meeting. Carol reported that Janet Bunker was able to purchase a Smart Board for the Media Center by using scholastic book sale points.

### **Family Fun Night and Science Night**

Family Fun Night is scheduled for January 26th. Jehan Faisal offered to chair this committee. Aimee Eigsti will co-chair Science Night.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm. The next PTO meeting will be held on November 15th, 2011 at 7:00pm.

Minutes submitted by Heidi Chopskie - PTO Secretary  
\*subject to approval at the November PTO meeting