

MINUTES

Merrill Middle School PTSA Minutes

Date | time 2/18/2016 5:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Eric Fling

In Attendance

Eric Fling, Catherine Collier, Amy Homburger, Laura Mitchell, Anne Friesen Birky, Becky Wiggins, Margo Sobocinski, Sarah Zilinskas, Laura Mauck, Shelly Curtiss, Amy Bringedahl, Joe Welch, Heba Nabhan, Krista Quicke

PTSA President Report – Eric Fling

- Introductions
- Volunteers for President & VP should speak with Eric or Catherine. Elections next month.

PTSA VP & Communications Report – Catherine Collier

- Emily Brouillette will (most likely) take over the Directory and communications next year. However, the VP position is still open.
- Catherine set up emails for PTSA officer positions and also updated the website with restaurant night info and community fund info
- Interested families have the opportunity to advertise on the school directory - \$250 per ad

Treasurer's Report – Catherine Collier for Joe Welch

- Still looking for kiln donations. Amy H. will check on the \$750 match from Xcel for the kiln, has not been rec'd yet.
- The PTSA authorized the closing of the old PTO account at Westerra Bank. Funds transferred to the new PTSA account, also at Westerra.

Membership Report – Amy Homburger

- Passed around envelopes for membership dues. Membership is growing!

Principal Report – Amy Bringedahl

- Amy discussed the budget in general. Large budget cuts will be absorbed by DPS admin. Because Merrill is no longer a Title 1 school, the school will no longer receive those funds.
- The social worker/psychologist position is funded, but funds were taken from the General Supplies account to cover the cost (\$4200).
- Amy approved the PTSA raising funds of \$4,200 to cover that gap in the budget.
- The bond proposal that Merrill submitted for school improvements includes additional classroom spaces, expanding the MIS room, as well as an improved gym and community space.
- Amy will pass on information about a grading forum soon. This is to help create consistency in standards based grading. Teachers will have professional development in this area on 2/29 and then there will be a parent/teacher forum on grading, date & time TBD.

Open Discussion

- Becky Wiggins will coordinate the fundraiser for \$4,200. Will meet Feb. 24th (or possibly 25th) to discuss options and all are welcome.

Note: I had to leave the meeting at 6:30 to attend the band rehearsal – please let me know if you'd like anything that I missed added to the minutes. Amy H.

Note 2/22/16: The Cory PTA hosted a live jazz ensemble performance for their students in the Merrill auditorium on Friday afternoon, Feb. 19 and invited interested Merrill classes to attend in the balcony. Elective classes planned to attend. We have partnered with Cory PTA on past Arts performance assemblies since Cory often requests use of the Merrill auditorium and space allows for students from both schools to attend. 4-5 Merrill classes were in attendance (coordinated by Ms. Horgan).