**Petrova Parents’ Club Meeting Notes**

**July 11, 2013**

**Home of Principal Chad McCarthy, 7pm**

Attendees: Chad McCarthy, Bob Laba, Carrie Bradley, Zoe Smith, Jenn Small, Polly Kelting

Review of Parents’ Club (PPC)Events and Activities

Open House: no revenue

* Chair: Zoe Smith, Jenn Small
* Opportunity for students to see their classrooms and meet their teachers on the evening before school starts
* Parents’ Club has a table with descriptions and signup sheets for volunteering for various club events
* Last year we cooked hot dogs for everyone who came to Open House

Curriculum Night: no revenue

* Chair: Zoe Smith
* Principal organizes evening with teachers. In the past there have been three rotations, including classrooms, library, and specials rooms.
* Brief presentation to parents highlighting the activities that PPC hosts throughout the year, including information about what projects we have funded in the past and our current goals.

Mini-Grants: no revenue

* Chair: Bob Laba
* This is an avenue for teachers and staff to apply for specific items needed for their classrooms.
* Grants applications are submitted through the PPC website and are awarded 2 times a year, September and February. The funding limit is $500 per application.
* A PPC committee reviews proposals and meets with the applicants to decide which grants will be funded.

Family Fun Nights: no revenue

* Chair: Principal
* There has been a movie night, a math night, an arts and science night, and a family dance night. Dates have already been put in the calendar by Josh.
* Primarily teacher led with assistance provided as needed by parents.

Box Tops/Price Chopper Points/Campbell Soup Labels: $400 and supplies

* Chairs (respective order): Chrissy Hayden, Lori Mouranie, Michelle Davis
* Promote, collect, process, and submit to the relative vendors.
* Chad suggested the purchase of a scanner for the Price Chopper card numbers.

Homework Haven: no revenue

* One parent to cover for a faculty member the first Monday of each month, from 3:30 to 4:15.
* Help students with their homework, give snacks.

Football (JV and Varsity) Homecoming Games Concession Stand: $300

* Chair: Zoe Smith
* Sold food such as pizza, nachos with cheese, hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee, and blankets

Halloween Party: no revenue

* Chair: Jenn Small
* 3 rotations of fun. First: the library for stories. Second: the auditorium for a show of some kind. Third: the cafeteria for games. Principal assigns teachers for the game stations to supplement the parent volunteers located there.

After School Programming: no revenue

* Chair: Becky LaDue
* 2-6 week sessions, held on Tues, Wed, and Thurs after school until 4:30 for 3rd-5th grades between Thanksgiving and Spring Break.
* Brittany Smith was hired last year to help organize and staff the program.
* Received an Iron Man grant for $1500 to fund these activities which include: knitting, 4H, science, French, STEM, gardening, swimming at NCCC, basketball.
* Principal did a lot of the organizing of students and their transportation.
* Discussion of possible fall session for gardening club.

Book Fair: no revenue

* Chair: Amy Ervin
* PPC volunteers to staff the register at the book fair for a week in the winter and spring.
* Money goes to support the elementary library, however the money does not seem to be being used.

Christmas Tree Sales: $400

* Chair: Polly Kelting
* Pre-Cut and bound. Customers pick up their tree at the circle during a couple hours in the morning of the first Sat in December.
* Some enhancements in discussion are moving the pickup to the night before and having a bonfire, a bake sale, and maybe a special group of student singers.

Holiday Giving: $200 to charity of choice and $200 to PPC

* Chair: Lori Mouranie
* People from the Petrova community give gently used items (no clothing) to the school for sale during the day near the winter holiday.
* Children are dismissed by grade to shop. Each teacher has a list of the students and their money.
* In the past, storage has been the main issue, followed by even distribution of items. For example, the grades that shop first, get the best stuff.
* 5th graders assist the Kindergarteners

Holiday Raffle: $3500

* Chair: Bob Laba
* List of businesses to solicit at Sept meeting
* Sell tickets from Oct-Thanksgiving
* Prizes awarded from Dec 1 – Dec 26

Winter Carnival: $

* Chair: Bob Laba
* Event is held on the first Sat of Winter Carnival 11-2 in the cafeteria and middle school gym
* Cake walk with cakes provided by Paul Smith’s College, food available in the cafeteria, games in the middle school gym, book sale, and silent auction.
* Students participate in Winter Carnival Parade representing Petrova. Tracey Goetz head of the float committee last year.

Daffest Bake Sale: $300

* Chair: Zoe Smith
* Baked goods were made by parents and coffee was sold at the top of the hill on La Pan Hwy, near the start of the box car race.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: no revenue

* Chair: Jenn Small
* Luncheon hosted for elementary and middle school teachers on the Thursday before Mother’s Day, during Teacher Appreciation week.
* Main course has been purchased from a local restaurant with sides, deserts, and drinks donated by parents.
* PPC volunteers set up, served, and cleaned-up after the event, which was held in the auditorium.

Parent-Teacher Conference Snacks: no revenue

* Chair: Lori Mouranie
* Parents donate snack foods for teachers during parent teacher conferences twice a year.

Fun Day: no revenue

* Games, music, food on the athletic field one day during the last week of school.
* Principal organizes teacher assignments to man various games and activities.
* PPC provides classroom volunteers, hot dogs, watermelon, and popcorn.

School Directory: no revenue

* Directory was distributed this spring; it looks great after a lot of work from Ken Aaron and Principal Dann!
* Some suggestions for improvement are to produce a directory with just phone numbers and not addresses, or a “playdate” list could be distributed by the teachers for each grade.

Survey of Petrova Community

* A short survey was distributed to the Petrova Elementary community requesting feedback to help us focus our fundraising goals.
* Out of 34 responses, the overwhelming desire was to continue funding After School programming.

Fundraising goals

* Technology needs upgrading to help prevent the frustration that can occur when learning computing skills.
* There are a lot of free apps from Google store and other places. Perhaps we do not need to invest in a lot of hardware.
* Perhaps teachers should have to run an “in-service” class for their colleagues after school to show how they are using new technology they have received from a mini-grant.
* What about enhancing our music and arts programming?
* Discussion about giving teacher’s discretionary spending money for their classrooms.

Other Fundraising Ideas

* We could make direct contact to Petrova alumni for small donations.
* Jog-a-thon- a spring, early summer event we should pursue this year. We could have some local sponsors listed on the T-shirts.

Other General Topics of Discussion:

* Hospice has not been a Parent Club run event, but a choice of the Principal as a fundraiser for May.
* PPC needs Principal support to encourage teacher involvement in PPC activities, i.e. teachers are a huge asset in selling holiday raffle tickets.
* PPC has relied heavily on Principal to send out Alert Now emails to parents.
* Could children be allowed to sit wherever they wish at lunch?
* Student-Teacher relationship could be greatly enhanced if Teachers could be out on the playground during recess to observe unstructured behavior of their students. These observations could then help them in their understanding of the dynamic of the classroom and future placement of students.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting at Chad McCarthy’s house, 7pm on Aug 8