

Minutes of the Meridian PTO/Christmas in September

Monday, September 26th, 2011

Monroe Center, IL

This meeting of the Meridian PTO at Monroe Center Grade School was called to order at 5:55pm.

Board members present included: Jason Drake (President), Dawn Clinton (Vice President), Melissa Lewis (Secretary), Cindy Raimer (Treasurer), Heather Wallin, Heather Drake, Kari DeRosso, and Principals Mike Coulahan (Highland) and Leslie Showers (Monroe Center). Parent members included Joy Kohler, Laura Gray, Malynnda Mueller, Theresa Fitzsimmons and Kathy Groenhagen.

Jason Drake welcomed everyone, and mentions that the most effective way to find out what is needed in teachers' classrooms is to ask them! The Christmas in September meeting opened with teacher wish list/presentations from EC, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st through 5th grade, resource teams with both schools, library, and physical education for the PTO Board to consider. A brief recap follows:

EC and Pre-K-Requesting HATCH, a math and literacy computer program for \$1499.80

Kindergarten-Requesting 40 packs of Rigby books for reading levels 1-8, as well as non-fiction series packages of leveled books, and 48 individual CD players (8 per classroom) for a total of \$4649.40

1st Grade-Requesting 50 portable CD players, storage rack, hang-up totes, rechargeable batteries and chargers, magnetic paper and Velcro cork boards for a total of \$5041.02

2nd Grade-Requesting non-fiction books and bins to store them, and funding for Christmas Around the World and Mother's Day Tea, materials for hatching chicks and supplies to make bread for Ag in the classroom. Total \$3200.00

3rd Grade-Requesting one mounted Smart Board, projector, two full-size dry erase boards, 60 student size dry erase boards, 2 drawer filing cabinet, and funds for inside recess games and incentive prizes. Estimated total \$3000.00

4th Grade-Requesting twelve sets of dry erase boards, comprehension question sticks, magnetic place value banners, literacy learning stations and comprehension flipcharts for at total of \$1264.42

5th Grade-Requesting two mounted SMART boards, six licenses for classroom subscriptions to classroomzoom.com (an online library of standards-based lessons), one Apple Ipad, and a license for TIMES ATTACK, an online math intervention program. Muster Day was not included as priority, because of increased time demands and changing needs on teachers. Estimated total \$4800.00

Monroe Center Resource Room-Requesting PALS math tutoring intervention, great leaps math, V math, Don Johnston write out loud program, Read Naturally phonics programs, books in Spanish, puppets (for counseling), and a five-minute therapy kit (a program for speech therapy), totaling \$3624.14

Highland's Resource Room-Requesting Classroom Suite program to help achieve mastery in reading, writing and math, Spanish books for library, and speech therapy tests and newsletter subscription for a total of \$2076.07

Highland and Monroe Center library-Requesting varied books including: Monarch, Bluestem, State, Series books, Kindergarten daily and bilingual titles, and a new library printer. Total cost \$7339.00

Monroe Center physical education-Requesting a laptop/notebook to track fitness testing, Estimated total \$500

Highland physical education-Requesting materials for Presidential fitness program and Field Day. Total \$852.50

PBIS and Assemblies-Requesting supplies for incentives for good behavior, and funding for three assemblies totaling \$1945.00

1. Old Business

- A. Cindy Raimer made a motion to approve the August 2011 minutes, with Dawn Clinton seconding. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. *Treasurer's Report*-Cindy Raimer noted that we still have \$3875.00 in teacher stipend budget, and \$6493.39 remaining in Santas and Elves budget. Cindy made a motion to approve \$350.00 to Laura Hopkins, our new accountant for services to file Federal and State returns, and Bingo License and tax forms. Heather Wallin seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Heather Drake not present.
- C. *Committee Reports*
 1. **Spiritwear**-Cindy Raimer mentioned that children's apparel needs to be reordered before the Parent/Teacher conferences. Heather Wallin stated that we have donated 100 silly bandz to the PBIS incentive program at Monroe Center.
 2. **New Member Candidates**-Dawn Clinton stated that PTO membership forms were out to schools on the 26th to get into parents hands. Jason Drake made a motion to vote in three new members, Laura Gray, Malynnda Mueller, and Theresa Fitzsimmons to the board. Cindy Raimer seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Heather Drake not present.
 3. **Raffle ticket fundraiser/Family Fun Night**-Discussion of details for the Mega Money Raffle, the first winners will be drawn at our Stone Quarry event on October 28. Thought of having a rented or purchased cage to place names in to draw names from, having tables to register for mini-golf and volunteers to staff them. Parent Joy Kohler mentioned that rhodeislandnovelties.com has glow necklaces, could be purchased for the kids. Parent Kathy Groenhagen mentioned that any raffle winner of substantial amount should have a check and tax form mailed to their home for

safety reasons, and questioned capacity limits inside the barn. Heather Wallin motioned that the entry fee be \$3 per person, and \$5 entry for golf teams. Dawn Clinton seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Heather Drake not present.

D. Parent/Teacher Comments-Parent Kathy Groenhagen stated that we need to make sure that more parents get involved. She has heard negativity about the PTO, and that P.R. needs to be a priority. Joy Kohler is shocked and disgusted that hardly any parents come to meetings. Negative connotations have been associated with the PTO for some time.

Jason Drake made a motion to adjourn at 9:40. Melissa Lewis seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Lewis