

Ensign PTA  
Monthly Board Meeting

**Meeting Minutes** for Friday, November 3, 2022  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (via Zoom)

Attendees:

Melissa Brownell, Trevor Chester, Jenny Desha, Betsy Garlish, Therese Huhtala, Erik Jacobson, Lindsay Johnson, Lauren McBrier, Jana Neal, Michelle Pate, Elizabeth Payne, Amy Picklesimer

Excused: Ashley Anderson, Elizabeth Lucas, Lisa Mangiapani, Emily Neuman, Devon Musson Rose

Conducted by: PTA President (Lauren McBrier)

Notes taken by: PTA Secretary (Therese Huhtala)

**Welcome and Introductions** (Lauren McBrier; 7:03 p.m.)

**Dates to Note:**

- Friday workshops: starting 11/4 from 12-1pm (every Friday)
- Picture Day makeup: 11/8
- Thanksgiving Break: 11/23 to 11/25
- SCC meeting: 11/28
- Flu shot clinic: 11/29
- December PTA meeting: 12/2

**Items Approved via Email Vote**

- Proposal made via email on October 26, 2022, as follows:

“Melissa Brownell moves to approve \$200 to fund additional requested teacher enrichment on the 11/1 asynchronous day. Lauren McBrier seconds.” **APPROVED by majority vote.**  
(Yes votes: Melissa B, Lauren, Devon, Betsy, Lisa, Elizabeth P, Therese)

**Officer Reports**

1. Treasurer's Report (Elizabeth Lucas excused)
  - Elizabeth will put the Treasurer's Report on the Google Drive.
2. Faculty Rep's Report (Amy Picklesimer)
  - Teachers want to let the PTA know how much they appreciated the treats, Halloween, etc.
  - The Halloween parties were great.
  - Teachers really enjoyed the asynchronous day treats and Date with a Book activity.
  - The Spelling Bee is set for Friday, Feb. 3 at 8:30 am.
    - Thank you to the PTA for funding it.
    - The registration fee has been paid, and so Amy just needs to buy gift cards for the top two winners.
    - Last year, the PTA volunteers who acted as judges were awesome; she would like them to volunteer again.
    - PTA members who volunteered last year expressed that the Spelling Bee is so fun.
    - Additional shout outs were made to PTA members/volunteers.
3. President's Report (Lauren McBrier)

- Night at the Library:
    - Thanked PTA members/volunteers for such a fun library event.
    - Lauren noted the great turnout.
    - Thanks to Melissa and Betsy who found last-minutes volunteers.
    - The event was well organized, fun, and educational, and the ice cream was good.
  - Pumpkin Drop:
    - Thanks to Mr Jacobson and Mr Lynn for their enthusiasm for the pumpkin drop.
    - The district shared the video; the visibility will help us raise more going forward.
  - Ideas for future events:
    - Watermelon smash (i.e., Gallagher-style) for Field Day; kids could eat watermelon.
    - Dunk tank idea discussed.
    - Gallery Stroll color run discussed.
  - Fall Fundraiser:
    - Lauren thanked Lisa for her hard work, which resulted in increased funds.
    - Raised more money than last year and the year before.
    - Lauren will check out the Stripe deposit/account for details.
    - Thanks to room parents for helping with emails/promotions/managing class parties.
  - Bulletin board help needed for computer lab: Ms Jennings requested help from PTA.
  - Communications discussion:
    - PTA still needs a Communications volunteer/help with communications.
    - It would be good to have a strategy for when to send out emails, how many, etc.
  - Friday workshops discussed: it's a time for people to get together to have offline discussions, plan/strategize, work on projects together or individually, etc.
4. Principal's Report (Erik Jacobson)
- Asynchronous Day:
    - Thanked PTA for the asynchronous day gifts; the piñata was hilarious and the teachers had fun.
    - Dani brought in lunch for everyone.
    - He thinks the teachers overall felt the love.
    - Instead of candy, the piñata contained supplies.
  - School goals:
    - Literacy goal: to increase number of students reading at or above grade level at the end of the year by 5% (from this year's baseline).
    - Math proficiency goal: 5% increase comparing end of last year's RISE scores with the end of this year; Ms Romney has come in to help with this goal.
    - Achievement gap goal: 80% of students in lowest quartile to make at least a year's worth of growth.
    - Culture goal (based on performance results): refining goals from last year; making the goals different across grade levels this year.
  - Performance results:
    - This month's performance results goal is self-directed learning.
    - An example of this is, when there is a conflict, asking kids questions that resolve around the performance result; we grow when we can reflect.
  - Winter concert:
    - Set for 12/16 at 9am (approved by SIC or will be next week).
    - K-3 performance (Ms Adams)
    - Upper-grade performance: string, choir, band
  - Festival of Trees being set up for string and choir: Wed. 11/30 (5th and 6th grades).
  - Year of fun continuing; thanks to PTA for providing the fun.
  - Test scores and social emotional learning (SEL) are important goals.
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- Covid/illness discussion:

- There has been one confirmed covid case, and RSV is going around; 10% of kids were out at one time.
- Ensign is following illness procedures as closely as possible and checking kids out; kids are covid testing.
- We are doing what the district has laid out.
- We no longer have exposure letters or contact/tracing, [and no longer have the same mitigations] because of how the legislature changed the laws; therefore, things are different this year.
- Erik has been talking with the district and school nurse about the procedures.
- The district has updated illness procedures, which came out of Ensign.
- This issue is still a struggle in some regards, and Erik thinks we are doing a nice job of dealing with it going forward; he is glad that parents are willing to be communicative and supportive, which is not the case at other schools, and he is thankful to parents for being easy to work with (even if we don't agree).
- Lauren loves that we have goals we work on every week and that everyone knows what they are; she expressed that she's glad the year has been going well.

### **Chair/VP Reports**

1. Fundraising VP (Lisa Mangiapani excused)
2. Volunteers VP (Betsy Garlish)
  - Picture retakes: Betsy mentioned the need for volunteers for picture retakes.
  - Night in the Library discussed (in the sense that getting volunteers was a success).
  - **Adopt-a-Staff list is still needed**; Melissa is sending an email right now and will copy Erik and Devon.
3. Room Parent VP (Devon Musson Rose excused)
4. Building Community VP (Elizabeth Payne; presented by Lauren M.)
  - Thanks to Emily for doing the annual pumpkin contest and other halloween tasks.
  - Elizabeth P asked if we decided on a service project.
    - Lauren said Emily has a crew going and a plan in place that involves working at food pantries at West and/or Bryant with involvement from Ms Toney.
    - Elizabeth P will reach out to Emily to see if she needs help.
  - Elizabeth asked if there are dates for Write Your Heart Out (and do we need PTA help) and Gallery Stroll;
    - Erik said we don't have a date for Write Your Heart Out yet.
    - PTA will usually help with materials but not volunteers.
  - Halloween events discussed:
    - Emily had certificates and little prizes for the pumpkin contest, which was great.
    - Therese mentioned that the earlier time is an issue for people with older kids at SLCSD secondary schools.
5. Supporting Teachers VP (Melissa Brownell)
  - Thanks to Betsy and Devon for their work getting volunteers.
  - Funding requests:
    - Ms Jennings asked for \$100 to buy prizes for the kids. She does not have allocated money because she teaches a special; therefore, we need to vote.
    - Melissa also proposed a special vote for \$200 to fund the remaining two asynchronous learning days in February and April (for a total of \$400); she would like the same amount we funded for the one in November.

**Melissa Brownell motioned to approve funding \$100 for the computer lab; Lauren McBrier seconded. APPROVED by majority vote.**

**Melissa Brownell motioned to approve funding \$400 for two asynchronous learning days; Jenny Desha seconded. APPROVED by majority vote.**

- Melissa also requested help with/volunteers for the asynchronous learning days.
- Erik mentioned there shouldn't be asynchronous learning days next year.
- Melissa said we can start talking about/planning the January lunch for teachers.
- Lauren asked Amy if she has any ideas for the two asynchronous learning days; Amy responded that she feels grateful for anything we do.

6. Academic Enrichment VP (Ashley Anderson; presented by Lauren M.)

- STEAM Fair:
  - Amy shared the STEAM Fair Nearpods with classroom teachers.
  - Ashley will reach out to Kelly to get an update on STEAM Fair advertising; we should make a big push before winter break.
- Garden update:
  - Wasatch Community Gardens improved the drip lines.
  - Cover crop was planted.
  - There are new teachers using the beds, which is great: Ms. Panameno and Ms. Cantu are planting bulbs.
- Tanner Dance:
  - There should be a 2nd-grade INFORMance soon.
  - Kindergarteners and 1st graders will then participate.
  - Harry is aware of spring grants to continue to fund this Tanner Dance program.
- Art:
  - Ms Brooks will start a fiber arts unit using district funds.
  - Ms Brooks is learning how to best utilize our kiln through observing ceramics classes at other elementary schools (Indian Hills and Franklin).
  - Ashley has heard great feedback about Ms Brooks from kids; we should continue to pass on additional positive feedback that we get to her.
  - Erik mentioned being excited about the massive art installation being planned for Gallery Stroll.
- Music/Winter Concert:
  - Ms Adams is preparing a winter concert and has discussed the format with Ashley.
  - Ashley will reach out to her to get updates.
- BizTown/Jr Achievement (JA):
  - BizTown field trip has been scheduled.
  - If any 6th-grade parents want to teach the additional JA curriculum, they can reach out to teachers.
- Tinikling:
  - Ashley will reach out to 6th-grade teachers soon.
  - **Ashley would like a few more volunteers** if there is interest.
  - For getting tinikling volunteers, a direct ask to specific parents is better than a general, broad ask because certain skills (i.e., wrangling a large group of kids) are ideal.

7. Past President (Emily Neuman; presented by Lauren M.)

- Pumpkin contest recap provided:
  - Emily said it was easy to coordinate and worth doing.
  - 15 kids participated.
  - Each participant received a Certificate of Recognition and a surprise prize.
- Winter Giving community project discussed:
  - Emily has been in touch with Ms Toney, Chris Jones, Amy Fehlberg, and Lynn Howell (who is at West) about this service project.
  - The plan is to do a canned food drive for West and/or Bryant families.
  - Ms Toney will partner with PTA; all items will be collected and stored in her classroom.
  - Advertising will begin after Thanksgiving break (to provide a break between asks).
  - Ms Toney will announce the drive through her classes the week after Thanksgiving.
  - Proposed timeline: from Thursday, Dec. 1st through Thursday, Dec. 15th.
  - PTA will inform and remind families to participate through the usual ways.
  - PTA will create a new bulletin board, "Contributing to Our Community," in place of the cityscape board to feature the food drive.
  - Items needed/accepted:
    - Any shelf-stable, staple grocery item will be accepted.
    - The Bryant food pantry has a high demand for diapers.
    - West's food pantry (The Family Resource Center) stocks boxed/canned food, cleaning supplies, hygiene items (i.e., diapers), and basic school supplies.
  - Delivery will be on Friday, Dec. 16th and/or Monday, Dec. 19th.
  - Emily will need volunteers.
  - Bulletin board update planned.
  - **Outstanding action items:**
    - Determine the three most helpful items through discussions with Lynn Howell.  
\*Ms Toney and Emily are working on this action item and waiting for specifics from Lynn.
    - Design social media ads. **\*Volunteer needed.**
    - Design and create the above-mentioned bulletin board. **\*Volunteer needed.**
    - Determine whether we should expend it to also include Bryant. **\*This would require a volunteer to spearhead.**
- Sock drive mentioned: C&A is again participating in the Avenues neighborhood-based sock drive.

**Additional Discussion:**

- Thank you for the sandwich board, Elizabeth P.
- Therese asked about whether word got out for book club and Battle of the Books.
  - Amy P told the teachers about it.
  - Erik said he would talk to Mr B about it as well.
  - Mr B has a permission slip that parents need to sign.
  - Erik wants a clear way to communicate with parents if it is canceled (i.e., he will get an email list from Mr B).

**Lauren McBrier motioned to adjourn the meeting; Michelle Pate seconded.  
APPROVED by majority vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.