

6:00 pm, Music Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Tahra Harrell, seconded by Jen Young

Attendees-19 members

Board Members in Attendance: Tahra Harrell, Kim Kratzer, Jen Young, Liz Wynn, Matt Hudson, Dave Middlin, Megan Willson

Members in Attendance: Renee West, Kim Bondy, Vernnaliz Carrasquillo, Wendy Brademeyer, Petula Brown, Christina Hasselkus, Jason JaVon, Polly Michowski, Ted Michowski, Nkiru Okamor, April Rauscher, Nicole Ridenour, Sue Huck, Cecile Rock

I. Approval of the December meeting's minutes

II. Treasurer's Report

- a. Bank Balance as of : 10/26/14: \$6607.83
Withdrawals were -\$2696.38 Deposits were +\$3531.96
Bank Balance as of 11/26/14 \$7443.41
- b. Funds that we have earned that will be coming in December: (\$16,160.88)
 - i. Fun Run: \$12,295.04
 - ii. Box Tops: \$2,753.51
 - iii. Scrips (Gift Cards): \$195
 - iv. Kroger Community Rewards: \$337
 - v. Aubree's Dining Event: \$391.65
 - vi. Parents Night Out: \$188.68

III. Funding Requests-

- a. Kim Kratzer is requesting \$250 for a new paper cutter for the copy room **Approved 20 yes; 0 no**
- b. Mrs. Rauscher is requesting \$379 for a program for her classroom **Approved 19 yes; 0 no**
Discussion: This is a program Mrs. Rauscher used at a previous school. She copied many of the material when she came here and has no originals. She finds this material very helpful in her teaching, but it the copies are getting worn out. It would only for her class, but she is willing to share the information with other teachers and staff that may find the material useful.
- c. Polly Michowski is requesting \$1500.00 for the AR reading program **Approved 20 yes; 0 no**
Discussion: AR is used to is to encourage children to become life-long readers. Students who read more recreationally will increase their reading ability and literacy development in general. Many students, however, do not read recreationally at home—especially if they struggle with reading. Implementing the AR program at school is a way to help encourage students to read and to provide the teacher with an easy method of tracking comprehension. How it works is students choose a book based on its level and point value. A book's level and point value is determined by number of words and difficulty level. When finished, students take a quiz on the computer. Students earn points based on how accurately they answer the questions. 60% accuracy is required to earn any points at all. Teachers can assign goals such as point goals, accuracy goals, or book level goals. We currently have all but 3 teachers using the program in grades 1-8, and at least two of those teachers would like to begin using the program next year.
Accelerated Reader is a great resource, but it's not free! It costs around \$6 per student enrolled in the program. NHA does not pay the fees; each school must use its own budget to purchase the program. This year it cost around \$4500 to purchase the number of "seats" needed for our students. Next year we anticipate a cost of around \$5000. The program has raised \$1300 with the Go Fund Me request. The first book fair raised about \$1500 and not sure what the next two will bring in. The \$1500 requested tonight won't be needed until the end of the school year to pay for next year.

IV. Updates & New Items –

- a. South Arbor students from 2nd to 5th grade have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the 13th Annual Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO). This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Registration is now open through December 19th.
- b. If you would ever like to show a staff member a token of appreciation and you aren't sure what they may like, you can find their favorites on our website! They can be found under Around The School, Staff Favorites
- c. If you shop online at AmazonSmile and make SA PTO your non-profit organization of choice, 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to the PTO!

V. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned by Tahra Harrell at 6:45 pm

VI. Next Meeting- Monday, January 12th at 6:00 pm in the Music Room