

## **September 2025 Agenda**

**Call to order:** 6:05 called by Melissa and seconded by Kim

Welcome everyone to our first meeting of the school year! Our 25/26 board members are: Emily Lenzie Co-President, Melissa Van Treeck Co-President, Kim Koop VP, Kristina Heiser VP, Katie Loepke Treasurer, Nikki Pagels Secretary

**Principals' Report:** Lots of exciting things are happening around the school. We sent out a before and after video of the school renovations. There are a few things still being done but overall we are thrilled with how everything looks. We put some sensory paths in the hallways for all of our students to use any time of day. 5th grade students did wall pushups on their way to gym today. On our social media you might have seen our book vending machine. We got a significant amount of money through a grant and that is one thing we purchased with that grant. The books are here and in there. The kids are very excited. A first grader was the first to get a book from there. It is part of the star store where they can purchase a token and get a book. Also to be used for students showing star behavior.

We did star rotations where we go over expectations all over the school. We go on the playground, a bus. We started our star incentive which is called starbucks. Once a month they can spend them at our star store. We have 27 parent volunteers to run the star store! We will have between 7 and 9 parents that will help each trimester.

Our first star store is next Thursday. There is a menu and they can pick out what they want to shop. Teachers help the younger grades to pick out things. "Experience" things include reading with Oakley, lunch with a principal, extra time with PE teachers, ride on animals, jump rope time. We will pull winners each month. We have 5 large motorized animals they can drive to specials, drive to lunch. There are 2 speeds so we turn them down for younger grades. Lots of fun.

As we start the year and learn about school we have drills that go along with that. We had our first fire drill and we will have a surprise one in the next few weeks. We also have a lock down drill and we tell the kids we practice these things to keep everyone safe. There is a practice before the police dept comes to make sure everything looks good.

### **Treasurer's Report: (Katie) :**

- Katie met with an accountant to help streamline everything moving forward. We switched to quickbooks to help with this. So far it's been working great. This will help break the cost down for events. For back to school bash we brought in \$2030. Kindergarten kickoff brought in \$1400. Our expenses for back to school bash were \$499 and spiritwear cost was \$1679. Our ending balance is \$21,492. We started off with \$20,899 beginning of June. Great start to the school year.
- We dropped off over 200 blankets today for our Raise Above fundraiser. It is a joint fundraiser with Parkland. Last year we made more than we expected.
- We have larger budgets this year. We are in the process of buying soccer nets and those will be around \$4000 for 2 new soccer nets. We also discussed setting an amount for teachers to use on something they want or need so we will set funds for that. We will send an email regarding that soon. Teachers can also lump those funds by grade to purchase something larger if they choose.
- Please see attached report for expenses and deposits

- Budget for 25/26. Last year our budget was \$12,000. That gives us roughly \$9,000 more this year which is great.
- We have other fundraising throughout the year including a Fall Event, dine outs, Timber ridge water park, Holiday drive thru, Urban Air Night, Spring Event, and color run. Last year we did a wolves game but are not sure if we will do that again this year. Could potentially look into a baseball game instead for something new.
- For Spirit wear this year we had an online store and we will have totals for that at our next meeting. We had 67 sales from the online shop which is a very good start. We sold a lot of spirit wear at the back to school bash and kindergarten kickoff. We do have extra adult spirit wear and will hopefully have a sale in the teacher break room at some point.
- Other things we use our budget for are: We have 3 assemblies each year. And this spring we will send the whole school to a play. This year the play will be Sponge Bob. The play is through CYT and is held at Willow Creek church in CL. It is a special experience we offer the students. We also bought balls for recess, as we run out of things at recess the PTO replenishes those things. We also pay for the challenger field trip for 5th graders. This year with our extra revenue we might be able to purchase the students' Field Day shirts so parents don't have to buy them. We also purchase snacks for testing dates and something for 5th graders end of year such as Italian ice. We also provide lunch during conferences, something over the holidays and teacher appreciation week.

#### **Old Business:**

- Kindergarten Meet and Greet and The Back to School Bash were a success, thank you to all of those that helped and came to the event.
- Our Kindness fundraiser is off to a great start! We had 273 students send out all their email/text to receive a blanket from the fundraiser
- We're purchasing new soccer nets for the playground and have purchased new balls for recess.

#### **New Business:**

- Culver's fundraiser has been moved to Monday 9/22 from 5-8pm at the McHenry location. Teachers and staff volunteer to serve the food at this fundraiser and the kids LOVE this. We will send an email tomorrow asking for teacher and staff volunteers. Fun way to start the school year.
- We are looking into a fall assembly, possibly The Mad Scientist Show. We are always open to suggestions. We do three assemblies per year, one per trimester.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Events Committee:** The Fall event will be on Thursday, October 2nd from 5-7pm at Valley View. We will have a pumpkin contest with a theme of "Pumpkin In Disguise." Each class decorates a pumpkin and we vote on favorites at the fall event. Winning classes win a sweet treat. We also have our book fairs at the Fall and Spring Events. We sell hot dogs, chips and drinks, book fair, free fall games and raffle. We have raffle baskets left from our spring event that we will raffle at the Fall Event. We are getting our pumpkins donated again this year from Harvest In Wonder Lake.

**Fundraising Committee:** sponsorship possibilities with A Better Choice Nutrition. ABC would love to partner with us with a small business partnership and we would get an in kind donation which would be money to use for staff appreciation. They make healthy treats, healthy snacks, protein oat balls, healthy protein options, shakes, loaded teas which have clean caffeine. There are different partnership levels.

**Box Top report:** Kriss will continue to make the newsletters and promote box tops. We can do trimester incentives again for first two trimesters and skip the end of the year. On the PTO page there are monthly incentives . You can connect your Walmart account and it will automatically upload your receipt. It is easy to use but feel free to reach out to Kriss with questions. We use that money for PTO purchases. The past couple of years we have done a battle of the grades and you can give credit to a certain grade. Each trimester we do an incentive like a popcorn party for the grade with the highest earnings. We have a board in the cafeteria showing how much each grade has contributed. They love the popcorn party or ice cream / Italian Ice party.

**Open for Comments:** For assemblies we like to switch them out every few years. Next year we will probably bring back Matt Wilhelm, we have also done Staley the Bear. The Mad scientist is science experiments. We tried storm chasers but it was geared to older children. We did the Milwaukee flyers last year and an author, Alex Willan, which went really well. Mr. Lotz got us in touch with the author last year. Any suggestions for assemblies please let us know. We have discussed having a parents night out previously. Amy offered to check out some options in the local area. Miss Glosson brought up maybe having Key Club watch kids during the parent night or have childcare offered as a fundraiser for Cheer team at the High School? Something to think about.

**Closing - Adjournment:** 6:51 called by Katie and seconded by Emily