

Sunset Valley Elementary

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General Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2010

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Christy Donofrio and seconded by Laura Zapanta to approve the minutes. A vote was taken and all were in favor of the approval.

Principal's Report – Tonight was the Night of Young Knights. About 50 kindergartners attended. We had good turnout for the Gallery Walk. Sunset Valley earned a Keystone Achievement Award for PSSA. This is the 5th year we earned the award. PSSA testing this year will be in March. The Norwin District Website has a new section that has recent activities and articles about things going on in the schools. Sunset's Ultimate Math Challenge was on there already.

Guest Speaker - William H. Kerr, Ed.D, the Superintendent of the Norwin School District. Mr. Kerr's experience started as an elementary teacher, then principal, then superintendent. He has 16 years experience as a superintendent. His role is to make sure budget is in place, the district hires the right teachers, we have supplies, we meet the standards for healthy meals and other responsibilities. He has 8 goals in the Norwin District. 1. Be an advocate for the schools, 2. To ensure success of all students, 3. Assure High Student achievement, 4. Ensure we have high performing students, 5. Make sure we have affective teaching and learning, 6. Make sure we have continued parental involvement, 7. Continue to have good health and wellness in the schools, and 8. Make sure we have good school and community relations. If we are going to be competitive in the world, we need to do better. We need to put more money and resources into the schools as an investment to go to the next level. A question was posed as to whether Norwin would be going to all day kindergarten and whether there was a difference between full day and ½ day kindergarten. There has been some research regarding this, and it is still open for discussion. They will continue to discuss, but at this time feel that most kids are not in need of full day kindergarten. There is no data to say that there is any achievement difference between ½ day kindergarten and full day kindergarten. Another question raised was whether we can expect to see more hands on science in K-3. Norwin will be putting in more money in science with a curriculum with more hands on activities. STEM – Science Technology, Engineering, Math – will hear more about this in near future. Question was brought up about writing being an area of weakness. Norwin is in the process of looking at this concern. There will be more emphasis on writing across the entire curriculum. Students do a great bit of writing activities that do not come home. They are kept in a writing portfolio that goes onto each teacher as they go to each grade.

Treasurer's Report – Becky passed out an expense report. Fundraiser numbers came in. PTA estimated a profit of \$10,000. Actual profit was \$10,300. Approve expense report. This was approved by Kristen Mandarin and Marian Capets gave the 2nd approval. See attached for the expense report.

Letters/Communications - Thank you from 1st Grade Teachers for chair covers and back to school “goodies.” Thank you from Nicole Cole and 1st grade teachers for the breakfast snacks on parent/teacher conference day. Thank you from Nicole Cole for the books from Round table Reader.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business - Cristy Donofrio discussed the new By-law Amendment regarding Dues that needs to be voted on. The state raised its PTA dues by \$1. We did not raise ours this year. We will need to vote on this new by-law issue at the next meeting. A copy of the by-law will be available for review if needed.

Feather the turkey raised \$705. There are 20 families who will be participating in the program. Families with 1 student will receive \$25 gift card. Families with multiple students will receive \$50 gift card.

PTA will have open Committee Chairs vacant next year (Fundraiser, Reading Counts, Character Development, Membership, Outstanding Educator, Council Delegate). PTA Treasurer will also be open. Please contact a PTA member if you know anyone who would be interested in volunteering for one of these openings.

Reports from Committee Chairs –

Year Book - Kristen Mandarin talked about taking pictures for yearbook. The price of yearbook increased by \$1. This increase is due to more pages being added. Each class will have their own page.

Science Fair – Science fair will be held March 7. Last year we had 70 projects. Laura Zapanta went to a district-wide science fair meeting last week. All schools will be on the same level this year – science fair packets, grade levels, judging will all be the same across the schools. The Science Club at the High school will have a day when you can come to the school to get project ideas. They will have various books about science projects, along with being able to talk to the Science Club students to get ideas for projects.

Ultimate Math Challenge – Joselyn or Wendy mentioned that the Ultimate Math Challenge went over well. They handed out the trophies to the winning classes. All students got a piece of candy from the candy store part of the challenge. The kids really liked it. There is an article on the Norwin School District website about the challenge. The Norwin Star took pictures and it may appear in the paper.

Outstanding Educator – The Outstanding Educator will be honored at a dinner in March. Forms will be sent home to nominate educator. Christy Donofrio asked parents to encourage students to fill out form and send in their nominations.

Environmental – Wendy Noe mentioned that in May of last year the students planted flowers. There are so many students that want to do this, they are putting their names in a hat and draw names to see who will participate in each project. They are considering making bird feeders in the winter and planting annuals in May.

Round Table Reader - Karen Soliday wants to extend a thank you to everyone for helping with Round Table Reader. They collected books from Hillcrest this year. If you have any donations, let her know.

Secret Santa Shop – There will be 10 vendors this year – Country items, hair bows, chocolate, lotion, ceramics, pta, snifty pencils, etc. Some vendors asked if they could raise some of their prices to \$7. The majority of items will be \$5 or less, but there will be a few for \$7.

Tree of Caring and Generosity – Items for the tree need to be new.

Announcements

November 16-18, 2010 - Book Fair
November 25-29, 2010 – Thanksgiving Break
December 1, 2010 – Tree of Caring Starts
December 6-8, 2010 – Secret Santa Shop
December 7-13, 2010 - 4-Sight Testing (Grades 3/4)
December 10, 2010 – Tree of Caring Ends
December 13, 2010 – Holiday Shirt Day
December 14, 2010 – Red & Green Day
December 15, 2010 – Snowman Day
December 16, 2010 – Santa Hat Day
December 17, 2010 – Reindeer Day

December 20, 2010 – Sing-a-long
December 20, 2010 – Dress Up Day
December 21, 2010 – Candy Cane Day
December 22, 2010 – Jingle Bell Day
December 23, 2010 – Christmas Shirt Day
December 23, 2010 – Christmas Party
December 24, 2010- January 2, 2011 –
Winter Recess
January 3, 2011 – Classes Resume
January 7, 2011 – 2nd Grade Period Ends
January 13, 2011 – PTA Meeting

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.
Approved (CAL) Recorded by PTA Secretary