

Ames School PTA Meeting

April 4, 2014

Meeting called to order at 8:45am.

Presentation by Girls on the Run – We asked them to present at the meeting since we are considering it for next year. It is a program and 5K event centered around anti-bullying and building self esteem, self worth, a sense of accomplishment. Curriculum is 10-12 weeks, meet twice a week for 1hr 15 minutes each time. It is designed for 3-5 grade and younger kids can do races (10 yards times their age). An Ames parent shared that they did it 2 years ago and it was an amazing race. First 4 weeks of program, is for the girl to get to know herself, the next 4 weeks is how to interact with her peers, the last 4 weeks is a community service project. Cost - \$175 per girl & they do provide scholarships to girls. The PTA is considering some kind of fundraiser to reduce the cost of \$175. No start up fee for PTA to run the program. The girl has to have a running buddy and the cost for that person to run is \$35. They get a tshirt, water bottle, \$\$ for snacks for each session, and the run. For parents who want to be a coach, there is training. There are positions for assistant coaches if you can't commit. 2 coaches for 8-15 girls or up to 20 with 3 trained coaches. There is a volunteer team to provide support to the coaches. There is a spiral book provided with the curriculum and the materials are all laid out. You can break out by grade or do a combination of the grades. Men can coach also. They provide a Jewel gift card so the coach can buy snacks for the girls. Start the program in 3rd grade because they are sponges at that age and taking a lot in. The PTA's role is to bring awareness to the event. There is a Fall and Spring opportunity to do the program and run. Girls need to make a commitment and not be missing training. Girls tend to repeat the program because they get so much out of it and the curriculum does change. Coaches have background checks. Also, if something personal comes up in these meetings, the parent/coach can call a hotline or talk to the principal. We discussed in the future, coordinating this district wide.

Teacher Report-

Mrs. Prodanich, Library Media Specialist

A few requests to share from the teachers:

- Thanks to the PTA for the 5th grade honor books for the library.
- Miss Allen wanted to thank the PTA for the help with the Science Fair and the presentation.
- Thank you so much to the PTA and Flavio Gonzalez for the Artist in Residence, it was amazing. Lisa Swicionis mentioned we will Feedblitz the link to some of the work. There is also talk about framing some of the work & posting in the school.
- 5th grade art night, Tree of life, over 100 people attended. Thank you for sponsoring.
- Mrs. Munson said to please thank Flavio and PTA – the kids are having a blast with Artist in Residence.

A few announcements from Mrs. Prodanich:

- Young Authors books from Ames will be on display at the library the week of 4/7. There is a party at 3:30pm on Thursday, 4/10, at the library to celebrate our young authors – families are welcome.
- Have been doing a lot of Skype and may do more author or even NASA Skype.
- Some of the Fall Festival Auction items were kids being star librarians. There were 3 kids who have done it and had a great time, and helped the Kindergarten classes.
- Mrs. Prodanich is working with 3rd grade Brownie troop to have a Book swap on May 9th. Will be collecting books for 3 weeks; there will be a pizza party for the class that collects the most books. Please send books appropriate for your child's grade, so we have an even number of types of books.
- Also putting together a Summer lending library, for students that need the extra help; plan to send them home with 4-5 books for over the summer.

Administrative Report –

Todd Gierman, Principal – Mr. Gierman had a conflict and could not attend today's meeting.

Officer Reports –

PTA Co-President, Deanna Hall

- A Vote was held to fill the new positions on the PTA Board for 2014/2015 school year:
Elizabeth Kos – Co-President; Tiffany Agne – Room Representative; Kirsten Bell – VP of Hospitality
- We are also looking to fill the position of Secretary and will hold a vote in the future for that position. If you are interested, please let us know.
- A motion was made to approve the February and March meeting minutes, seconded and approved.
- Calendar for 2014-15 has changes to mention:
 - The school board is proposing a Thursday late start or early release once a month.
- Talent show is moving forward based on parent interest and support. Sign up is due today (4/4/14) Auditions are next week during lunch. Tuesday is K-2; Wed is 3-5.
- Fifth grade game night is 4/11. Need to have Ames parent volunteers.

Treasurer Report -

Deanna Hall presenting for Tracy Stanard

- Junior Great books leaders, please remember to turn in receipts for pizza party
- Mr. Gierman wanted to do a mom's day at school and asking for \$300. We will need to discuss and vote on it.
- Additional request from Racing for Fitness for an additional \$100. All participants are going to receive a medal

Fundraising Report –

Cristin Evans

- Parents night out is at Flying High next Saturday night, April 12, from 7:30 – 10:30. Pizza and lemonade provided. They will be providing more chaperone and staff. It is \$15 a child ahead of time/\$20 at the door.
- Market Day orders – next year they will package the orders, which will involve less volunteers on our end. Please remember to place your orders.
- Book Fair is set for Wednesday 4/23 and Thursday, 4/24. Using Scholastic books this year - should be easy set up. Still need volunteers - you should see volunteer sign up opportunity coming out shortly.

Cultural Arts Report –

Flavio Gonzalez

- Artist in Residence – still going on today. Kids have been so excited.

Other Announcements –

- RAIN update – Paige is not here today; Gelse Tkalec did say to keep in mind that some kids will not be able to participate in things like Parents Night Out at Flying High, etc. Suggested that we work closer with RAIN to discuss ideas and keep other, more inclusive ideas/events in mind.
- A Parent brought up the concern about bringing in a 3rd section of Kindergarten at Ames. A suggestion was made that instead of Art and Music having to share a space, that perhaps Music uses the Gym stage.
- **Next PTA meeting is Friday, May 9th.**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:12am