

**Ames School PTA
December meeting minutes
December 14, 2017**

1. Call to order at 9:40 AM
2. Teacher report – Mrs. Munson
 - a. Mrs. Munson thanked the PTA for teacher dinners during parent-teacher conferences. She brought up the fact that students in grades 3-5 are encouraged to attend conferences and wanted to confirm this is suitable for these students. Parents in attendance agreed that students in these grades benefit from attending their conferences, and that younger students would not benefit from such meetings.
 - b. Mrs. Munson confirmed the times for Ames holiday programs.
 - c. PARCC testing is coming up in April, teachers and administration has asked the PTA to help with school decorations for this testing week. Teachers feel strongly that positive messaging should be visible throughout the school prior to and during PARCC testing. Ideas for decorating include:
 - i. Clappers for teachers and parents to use
 - ii. Signage
 - iii. Chalk drawings on the sidewalks
 - iv. Parent letters of encouragement to their students.
 - v. Positive decals in the bathrooms
 - vi. Notes to teachers and shout-outs to teachers in grades K-2 to thank them for preparing our children for testing.
 - vii. Ending the week with popsicles for students.
 - d. Mrs. Munson expressed a need for extra headphones for the student body, perhaps up to 10 sets of headphones per class. Students constantly have issues with current headphones. This would be a welcome improvement for students at Ames during testing.
 - i. PTA board will research headphones.
3. Officer and Committee Reports
 - A. President Dawn Eagleson and Domenica Jimenez
 1. Fall Festival & Auction updates
 - a. Thank you letters were mailed to contributors (Kim Marrero handled this)
 - B. Secretary - approve minutes from November 16th, 2017
 1. Flavio Gonzales
 2. Carrie Zalewski
 - C. Treasurer – 2016-17 PTA audit was completed. Need to approve in order to file taxes.
 1. Flavio Gonzales
 2. Carrie Zalewski
 - D. VP Cultural Arts & Educational Programs – Flavio Gonzalez
 1. PTA Reflections entries were received, all grades except Kindergarten are represented. Very pleased with submissions.
 2. Tiles were installed from 2017 Artist in Residence week. PTA will post online messages and “press release” to announce this.
 - E. VP Fundraising & Events – Emilia K.
 1. Fun lunch wraps up tomorrow (12/15), will start back up in February.
 2. Scrip gift card fundraiser is complete. Around \$100 raised, maybe next year we can offer online sales which might generate more profit.

3. Flying High parent's night out is scheduled for Friday December 15th from 7 to 10 PM. Perfect for holiday shopping or dinner out.
 4. Restaurant nights are scheduled: Tuesday 1/30 with Chipotle in Berwyn (50% back) are confirmed. Waiting to confirm Tuesday 2/13 with Slice Factory (40% back) and 3/14 with Blaze Pizza (20% back).
 - a. PTA will create a flyer for all restaurants and dates, we can maybe send as EBackpack announcement district-wide.
 5. Spirit wear sale should run in January and will include car magnets and yard signs
- F. VP In School Volunteers – Dana Frank
1. Classroom holiday parties are finalized. Ornaments have been purchased and delivered to room parents.
- G. VP Hospitality – Carrie Zalewski
1. Teacher cookie exchange is December 20th. Drop-off is scheduled for Tuesday night (12/19) during the holiday program.
4. Committee reports
- a. Family Dance – January 26th
 - i. PTA board has offered to run a concession stand during the dance since the donut stand can't be set up. Dawn will reach out to Mr. Gierman to confirm we can have a concession stand.
 - b. Family Heritage Night – February 6th
 - i. Committee will send out communications next week regarding this event.
5. New Business
- a. Decorate the school for PARCC testing (April) – previously discussed with Mrs. Munson.
 - b. January – PTA board will begin sending out communications for new board members for the 2018-19 school year.
 - c. Earth week – we discussed working with the school to come up with ideas for decorating the school. Would prefer using recycled products for this idea.
 - d. Dolphin Dads – need to communicate to committee chair in order to begin parent patrol (sometime in January).
6. Adjourn – 10:40 AM.

Attendees:

Dawn Eagleson, Domenica Jimenez, Carrie Zalewski, Flavio Gonzales, Susan Wolfe, Emelia Kowalski, Danielle Munson