

AMES PTA MINUTES

August 23, 2018

- I. Call to Order 8:31 by Domenica Jimenez, President of Ames PTA, (Susan Wolfe, co-pres)
- II. Principal Todd Gierman and Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye
 - A. Mr. Gierman has an “open door” policy if you or your kids need to reach out for any reason, he wants everyone to feel comfortable in doing so.
 - B. There are a few new teachers to Ames, including Ms. Amy Seymour in 5th grade and Ms. Gabrielle Wydra a resource teacher.
 - C. The school addition and space planning are an ongoing discussion and we are fully committed to making the green space work for us. The grass seeds have been planted and should be usable in a month or so, but we need to see how the space drains water and potential flooding in area. Also, a plan has to be established in regards to fencing and weed removal and how to access the green space once the grass is in. Stay tuned for an update on when green space will be fully accessible.
 - D. School Board, even though no one is from the Ames school area, is fully committed to focusing on our addition and how best to transform our space, according to our Superintendent. Timeline is still uncertain.
 - E. There seems to be funding and stipends for Afterschool Clubs, and we are wondering how to get more offered at Ames. According to Mr. Gierman, each school gets allotted one club and beyond that we have to apply and it gets worked into teachers’ salaries. Now that he knows there is an interest, he will try to see what else we can bring to Ames.
- III. Officer Reports:
 1. Secretary- Patty Romero
 - A. Minute approval from last meeting 1-Christine Long, 2-Katie Kowal. All approved, none opposed
 - B. Directories should be put together and printed in the next few weeks. Look for arrival and distribution sometime in October. We will send out a feedblitz when to expect your directory. They will be sent home via your oldest child’s classroom teacher.
 2. Treasurer- Kelly Tabb
 - A. budget questions- fall festival will be removed from budget for this year. Approval of budget for this school year 1- Michelle Udelson, 2- Dawn eagleson. All in favor, none opposed
 3. VP of Cultural Arts and Educational Programs – Jennifer Butler (not in attendance)
 - A. Back to School Assembly will be DJ today
 - B. Question- What can we do to improve the Artist in Residence program. A lot of dissatisfied parents and board members regarding last years experience, and we are going to be brainstorming other ideas for what is “ART”. Some suggestions are: theater/play production, Music, dance, 3D printing, sewing/weaving, Stained glass installation for new building. We are going to come up with new ideas and together with Mr. Gierman figure out the best way to move forward with this program.

4. VP of Fundraising and Events- Debbie Kummer (not in attendance)
 - A. We have lots of upcoming Fundraising opportunities for Ames families to participate in
 1. Spirit wear- ongoing until September 15th....All orders must be in by this deadline
 2. Book Fair- online sale begins September 7th. In school book fair is Sept. 12-13. It is our hope to get the teachers wish lists early this year so families can contribute to class libraries.
 3. Fun Lunch- we are ordering from Bills Place this year. Forms will be going out next week and fun lunch will begin at end of September this year.
 4. Pizza with the Principal- we will continue this program this year. Some have shown concern about who gets this opportunity and why some never get it. Mr. Gierman has assured us that this list will be monitored and that it is fair and evenly distributed throughout the time that kids are at Ames.
 5. Charleston Wrap- will run Sept. 12-October 5th. Great quality & gives back a lot
 6. Science in a Bag- will begin Sept. 27 and goes on for 4 weeks.
 5. VP of School Volunteers- Dana Frank
 - A. Room Reps- we will be reaching out for volunteers for room reps in the next few weeks. Stay Tuned for more info
 - B. Library Volunteers- sign up genius will be created for library readers/volunteers
 - C. D96 Volunteer Form- this needs to be filled out each year. There are copies on our website, or in the office. If you are going to be reading in your child's library time, please come a little early to fill out paperwork
 6. VP of Hospitality-Carrie Zalewski and Michelle Galindo, co-chairs
 - A. "Meet the Parents" social is a fun way of getting to know parents of kids in your child's same grade level. Please look for info on our website and flyers will be distributed. This will again be an adult only social at 34 East Lounge.
- IV. Other New Business
- A. Gaga Ball Pit- This will be funded (partially??) from our new AMES Beautification Fund. We are still trying to figure out where it will go and what type of gaga pit we will purchase. After it is installed, Mr. Gierman has agreed that rules for the game will be established and taught across grade levels to ensure a responsible and respectful way to play. The kids will all learn to "Play Gaga Ball the Dolphin Way"
- V. Adjourn at 9:32. Motion- Dawn, 2nd-Susan Wolfe

Attendance: Michelle Galindo, Michelle Udelson, Dawn Eagleson, Aisha Ilic Gomez, Kris McCormack, LaToya Martin, Julia Lembke, Emilia Kowalski, Kim Marrero, Louisa Fitzgerald, Leilani Navarro, Katie Kowal, Dana Frank, Kris Tokarz, Christine Long, Susan Wolfe, Patty Romero, Kelly Tabb