**Gene Witt PTO Minutes**

**March 2, 2023**

**2022-2023 PTO Board**

Carla Santoro – President

Sherry Pineno – Vice President

Shannon Cooley – Treasurer

Laura Anastasia – Recording Secretary

Cara Misiewicz – Corresponding Secretary

[genewittpto@gmail.com / www.genewittpto.com / Facebook](mailto:genewittpto@gmail.com%20%20/%20%20www.genewittpto.com%20%20/%20%20Facebook)

Call to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Old Business (Carla)**

* **Penny wars** 
  + Huge success. 4th grade won. They are getting their prize—Jeremiah’s—tomorrow.
  + Since all the grades did so great, we bought ice pops for all the other grades. Will be dropped off for tomorrow. Teachers can grab when they have time.
  + By the second day, they kids got really into it.
  + **Shannon:** Day 1: $19; Day 4: $799. 54 pounds of change.
* **Daughter Dance (Carla)**
  + Great turnout, huge success, great feedback.
  + **Shannon:** Looking like it profited more than we expected: $2,435.36.
  + **Laura:** Great work on the corsages by Jessie Brown, Laura Thacker, and Tammy Dickerman.
  + **Mrs. Dixon:** It was amazing, kudos to committee.

**New Business (Carla)**

**Upcoming Events**

* **Book Fair:** 
  + This will be 3/6-3/9, from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. This is not a PTO event, but we are helping to coordinate volunteers.
  + There is a Signup Genius for volunteers to help the kids shop. It is set up in 2-hour increments, but if you can only do an hour or half hour please still sign up.
  + Volunteers must sign in at front desk and much be in the raptor system.
  + **Jessie Brown:** Can kids go at lunch?
  + **Carla:** Yes, with a parent. To shop in the morning, the kids must have a parent with them. All parents must sign in at the front desk. Ewallet is back, the link was posted today on PTO Facebook page. You don’t have to send cash or check.
  + **Cara:** I will also send out an email.
* **Food Truck Rally**
  + The spring food truck rally is being chaired by Mike Lynch. It will be 3/29, 5-8p.m. Food trucks will be announced shortly.
  + **Mike:** Food trucks now must be approved through a new system through the district, where they supply proof of insurance and all that. I didn’t see Bite Me Cookies approved yet. Right now, Kona and Tacos are only ones who are approved.
  + **Carla:** Seems like approval goes through very quickly. We are waiting to make sure all the food trucks we want are approved before we announce them.
  + **Mike:** There are lot of food trucks who want to come.
* **Spring fundraiser Event (Carla)**
  + We decided not to do carnival this year. We are doing a family color run instead. It will be 4/22 on a Saturday in the backfield. More details to come.

**New PTO Facebook Group (Carla)**

* It is a private group as opposed to a Facebook page. You must be invited and be accepted to view posts. We were getting a lot of spam. This way we can monitor who is in the group and who’s seeing all the events and what we are doing.
* We posted the link to the new group in the old one, but you need to answer the questions to confirm you are part of the Witt community and PTO reviews answers before approving entry. Eventually, we will start using that page for everything and shut down the other page.
* **Dixon:** I will put this in Friday’s message.
* **Shannon:** It is just a group instead of a page. It should be searchable.

**Budget (Shannon)**

* Amazon Smiles/Box Tops: We received our last donation from Amazon Smiles—that program ended last month. We should get one more from Box Tops in May. We’re at $275.78 from those. (We don’t get much from Box Tops because it’s the Scan Now app and people forget.)
* Penny Wars: Penny Wars brought in $1,443.57.
* Business Sponsors: We got one more business sponsor, also one in December, one in February. That bumped up that to about $11,253.
* Mini Grants:
  + Mini grants are a little bit more ($4792.50) because I shuffled some stuff around.
  + We added the Chat and Chew breakfasts to mini grants.
  + We purchased an oral thermometer and the life vac choking device for the clinic. I also had her send me some stickers that I’m going to attempt to make flyers for designated areas [announcing that the life vac] is in the clinic. Is the clinic locked during Witty Kids?
  + **Dixon:** It should be.
* Water Bottles **(Shannon):** I ordered the 5th grade water bottles. That was a little more than $1,500.
* I ordered two benches for the back side of the playground, that was a little more than $1,200.
* Second grade got a wagon for all their recess equipment.

**Mini Grants (Carla)**

* We are approaching end of the school year. Last year, we did $53,000 in mini grants. Some of that was all the tables ($10-11K) and sunshade ($8-10K). But those big purchases still only accounted for $20K of the $53K.
* This year we are sitting at $9,600 in mini grants. So, we are significantly under where we normally are. So, if the teachers, the school, the classes, the grades -- if you need or WANT something, please ask us. That’s why we are here.
* Our budget is very healthy right now. We keep doing events and fundraising because it’s fun and we like to do it. Eventually, big items will need to be replaced, but we have the money so if you need something or want something, please don’t hesitate to put that in as a mini grant.
* We have a mini grant form that the teachers all have. We send it out at the beginning of every year.

**Green Parties**

* **Dixon**: At our leadership team this morning, 3rd-5th graders have a monthly green party that is tied to Acaletics. We’d like you to consider putting together a small group of parents for a committee that could plan a small 15-minute (per grade) thing once a month, to enjoy something fun around the theme of green (the color).
* **Mrs. Barrett:** They are getting bored with current thing. Hoping for more ideas. Teachers shared some suggestions, like having a green scavenger hunt, relay races, bubble party. Anything where they can do it for 15 minutes. We don’t want to make it all about food. Tomorrow is shamrock cookies.
* **Mrs. Smith:** I did see an idea: Cover ice cream cones with green icing to make Christmas trees as a green party.
* **Dixon:** This would be a nice way to get more parents involved.
* **Barrett:** We could do these in the cafeteria or outside. Acaletics a program in 3rd to 5th grade, it has a sports theme. They take a scrimmage each month—the same assessment but each month it is a higher goal. The ones who reach that goal get to come to the Green Party because they’re in the green. It’s a program that our district and a lot of districts use. They have it for science also. It’s just been proven to be a good program in math as well.
* **Barrett:** We keep doing green themes. District suggested raw broccoli. Frist year we did sno-cones every month, but it takes 4 staff members. This year, they seem kind of bored with it. So, any way the PTO can help would be great. A lot of time, I am the only one out there.
* **Barrett:** We usually time the green party for about a week after the scrimmage, so anyone who was absent can make it up. We could give dates for when the parties are well in advance.
* For funding, Acaletics gives us about $200, which doesn’t go very far. Rest would be from PTO.
* 225 kids usually across 3 grades
* **Dixon:** we would love to hand this over to a small group of parents who want a small one-hour commitment once a month.
* **Barrett:** 15 minutes a grade, back-to-back, with 5 minutes in between. Could have someone from school out there with the parent volunteers.
* **Dixon:** This runs from Sept through March. This would be for next year.
* **Barrett:** Last green party for this year will be the first part of April. We are going to do sno-cones. Because the goal each month goes up, there’s a lot of kids in the beginning and it gets less and less as the year goes on. So, it would make sense to save bigger and more expensive materials for later in the year. A progression of events. Almost everybody makes it the first month and then it slowly goes down. To make the party, you need to reach the goal or improve your score by 10 points. If students do the packet that goes home over winter break or spring break, they get 10 points and qualify for next party. So, numbers are high in January and after spring break. Last one, about 70 in each grade level. Month before, in the 60s, it kind of depends.

**Tetherballs**

* **Mike:** Fourth grade doesn’t have tetherballs to play with. Is that by choice?
* **Barrett:** Tetherballs are about $40 and over the years we’ve had a hard time with kids breaking them off the day they are installed.
* **Smith:** Some grade levels have them and remove them when their grade is not on the playground for that reason.
* **Shannon:** 5th grade and 2nd grade requested them, so they have them.

**Upcoming Dates (Carla)**

Friday, March 3 Penny Wars Winner Celebration – Jeremiah’s Water Ice

Mon-Thurs, March 6-9 Spring Book Fair

Wednesday, March 8 3rd Qtr. Celebration – Kona Ice (PTO purchasing for kids/teachers)

Friday, March 10 No School – Record Day

Mon-Fri, March 13-17 No School – Spring Break

Wednesday, March 29 Spring Food Truck Rally

Thursday, April 6 SAC/PTO Meeting (6 pm)

Friday, April 7 No School – Good Friday

TBD Mother/Son Glow Bowling Event

Also on March 8, donuts with administrators are that day for Opt-Out students.

**Shannon:** For Mother/Son, I just got confirmation for that it will be at Bowlero on a Saturday. No date on that yet. Likely end of March/beginning of April.

**Laura:** Do you still need Kindergarten Roundup tour volunteers?

**Shannon:** It will be me, Mike Lynch, my daughter Sofia, Sherry’s daughter Giada, and Mike’s daughter Neveah. Jessie Brown is a maybe to bring her fifth grader.

**Liliana Lockhart:** Will there be a mother/daughter day?

**Carla:** We do not have one planned. If anyone is interested in chairing that type of event for next year, please let us know.

**Shannon:** For the Color Run, we will be doing burgers and hot dogs and will need cooks.

**Mike:** Tell me details and I will share with the Fathers Being Involved (FBI).

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.