



**MINUTES**  
**Blythe Park PTA**  
General Membership Meeting  
**November 14, 2014**  
9:00am- Blythe Park School

- I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance-** Called to order 9:02am.
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes (vote)-** Minutes from October 16, 2014. Motion to accept- Julie Stack, Second- Becky Malloy.
- III. Fitness Program:**

We have continuously misbudgeted the fitness program coming in too low. Looking to spend about the same as we do towards one school assembly. Aces walk is \$200-\$300, paw prints are about \$200, lunch for the guests \$50-\$100. The budget is \$450, would like to increase by another \$450. A total of \$900 would cover all expenses. Motion to amend fitness program budget to \$900- Meaghan Mathews, 2nd-Julie Stack. Motion to amend general budget to allow the increase-Meaghan Mathews, 2nd-Debbie Brand.
- IV. Debit Card Feedblitz Payment:**

Cost is \$9.98/month. Credit card or debit card are the only forms of payment accepted. We are currently paying the monthly fee with our PTA debit card. Would ideally like to stop using our debit card and possibly getting rid of it altogether. Another option is to be only used for this purpose and not for any other purchases. This would entail amending the standing rules. Decision to get more information and bring to the next meeting. Inquire how other schools in the district handle this, maybe look into a prepaid credit card.
- V. Principal's Report- Ms. Casimira Gorman**

Any issues with signing up for Parent/Teacher conferences online, call Mrs. Marchuk for help. Starting in January the painting of the old furniture to begin. Plan to get parent volunteers for after school to help students paint.

With the changes happening in the district, would like to make sure parents are comfortable with the information going out. Would like to start in January a once a month mini Parent University type of meeting to give an opportunity for parents to come with questions or to come and learn more about the changes. Can we send out a survey to parents for their opinion on what topics they would like to go over, or if this is something they would even be interested in?

Thank you for the Halloween Play. The Veteran's celebration was one of the best that Ms. Gorman has ever seen put on by a school. Next year we can possibly have more of an honoring for the Veterans that have passed away. Set up a table so students can bring pictures of their deceased relatives, etc. A nice way to celebrate them.

In regards to cash gifts for the teachers, IL state law says teachers cannot accept gifts over \$100 collectively. The school board has brought it up and we are waiting for a more definitive policy from the board and district before sending out a note to the parents. Ms. Gorman to discuss more about this at the next general meeting.
- VI. Staff Report- Mrs. King**

Thank you for the Halloween festivities and the classroom funds.

Student Council raised over \$500 for the board games. Will be meeting next week to pick what games to buy. Suggestions are welcome.

Started the Veteran's collection.

Planning something new for science night. Working with ComEd that has a program for kids.

Please sign up for conferences next week.

## **VII. Officer Reports:**

- 1. President:** President of the school board was at the last PLT meeting and inquired if the school PTAs wanted to have a place on the school board meeting agenda. We are having trouble getting enough volunteers this year. What can we do to encourage more people to sign up, especially the parents of the younger grades. We do not want to burn out our regular volunteers. Idea to get our room parents more involved in getting parents to volunteer for events. Give the room parents more of a guideline of what to do, such as a list of duties. Work on this for next year to get room parents more involved.
- 2. 2nd Vice President-** There was a slight hiccup with Original Works where some kids in 5th grade did not receive their magnet in their envelope, only the paperwork. We need to reconsider and reevaluate Original Works as a fundraiser. We can talk to Central on how they do it and if it works for them. Let us see how much we make this year and bring it up at the next EBM. Send out a survey to parents to see their level of interest and have Mia look into Artsonia as well.
- 3. Treasurer-** CD balance is at \$3191.67. Paid for insurance, had the official certificate sent. If purchasing something for PTA, please use our tax letter to give us exemption for being a non profit. Book swap is next Thursday, students can still bring in books to donate.

## **VIII. Ongoing/Upcoming Events:**

- 1. Scholastic Book Fair-** Thursday is reading night and we will have Ann from the Riverside Library as our guest reader. Parents and students will get 20 minutes to browse the book fair prior to the reading night activities.
- 2. Five Below-** Fundraiser will be from Dec. 2- Dec. 7. We will send a hard copy of the flyer out to each family to bring to the store. North Riverside and Countryside locations will be participating.
- 3. CardioKids Cocoa Run-** Friday, Nov. 21st. Meet a little earlier this morning at 7:40 in the gym and will run until 8am. Everyone to go to the library afterwards for hot cocoa and cookies.
- 4. Family Movie Night-** Monday, Nov. 24th 6-8pm in the auditorium.
- 5. Cleaner Options-** Check is coming in January.
- 6. Box Tops-** Check is coming in January.
- 7. Poinsettia Sale-** Today is the last day to turn in orders. Pickup of plants will be on Dec. 4th.

**Adjournment-** 10:35am. Motion to dismiss: Julie Stack. Second: Julie Laube.

Respectfully submitted by Chaza Schira