

Dawes Elementary School
PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 14th, 2014
Dawes Library 7:00PM

Present: Dr. Karen Bradley, Julie Hoather (President), John Curnyn (Vice-President), Colin Hoather (Treasurer) Christine Duffy Levy (Secretary), Kim Hamilton (Teacher Rep), Elliot Frolichstein-Appel, Jennifer Fogle, Karen McLeod, Beth Daly, Iden Nowlin, Kathy Kearns, Stephanie Carlson, Stephanie Dixon, Stephanie Kulke, Ariane Heffernan, Shelley Powers, Jeanine Brownell, Waldek Ziolkowski, EPD Officer Enjoli Daley

General Membership Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

- I. Introduction: Julie Hoather welcomed the group to our meeting and presented Officer Enjoli Daley who plans to speak with us.
- II. Secretary: Review and Approval of Minutes: Karen Bradley made one change to minutes under School Update. She changed section i to read: "the children she interviewed thought the teacher's lounge was great". Elliot Frolichstein-Appel approved the minutes, Beth Daly seconded.
- III. Audit Report: Elliot Frolichstein-Appel
The Audit committee met and reviewed our records for a four year period, covering summer 2010-summer 2014. Everything was reconciled and the committee is pleased to announce everything is in order.
- IV. Evanston Police Department: Officer Enjoli Daley
Officer Daley shared safety tips for parents of school-age children.
 - a. Neighborhood around Dawes is predominantly safe, most crimes are crimes of opportunity. It is Important to help children be vigilant to their surroundings, to know what they can do or where they can go for assistance.
 - b. Online safety is important as children have more access to Internet. Keeping tabs on online action, their log-ins and texting histories. Discuss with your children that the online world is not necessarily a safe one. Set limits on usage and privacy. Explain that it is not the parent spying, but instead being open with each other and sharing.
 - c. Set the tone for ongoing conversations so that children become accustomed to talking about big or small events in a calm manner (not only as a reaction to something).
 - d. EPD has Youth Services that can help, they can be reached via the school or by the parent.
 - e. D65 addresses bullying with seminars, justice circles.

f. Parents discussed the Buddy Bench at Dawes and the online safety talk given last year and this year. King Arts has done bullying and now will address dating violence.

h. Officers Davis and Wright often help in conferences with students and follow up with them and the school as well.

Dr. Bradley spoke about how these issues at Dawes are looked at, how do we talk about difference? How do we teach our kids about difference, how do we react to their feelings?

i. Officer Daley discussed "Girls In The Know" (8-11y.o.) groups that talk about issues for girls and strive to open communication.

- V. Principal's Report: Dr. Bradley chose to discuss some curriculum information with us instead of a school update. A brief synopsis follows:
- a. Curriculum and instruction in writing for K-5 has a rich program philosophy. The process is geared towards writing "seed ideas", revising, conferencing, working things out and encouraging students to work through the process. For some it can feel messy, never done and discouraging. The students do get to see the process; how it's messy at the start but at then end they have produced something awesome.
 - b. The units of study are purposeful and can include: personal narrative, opinion essays, mystery and building complex writing skills. It allows room for different levels of writers. Work is eventually published and brought home or kept in class.
 - c. Grammar K-5 builds going from simple to more complex.
 - d. Student baseline assessments are done in September.
 - e. The curriculum helps students be exposed to different kinds of writing so they can recognize it and write about it.
 - f. Dawes is communicating more with the middle school to try to be in sync with their programs. In 6th grade, writing is more to content.
- VI. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented showing balances on hand as of 9/30/14: checking \$2771, savings \$16,391 total: \$19, 162
- VII. Committee Updates:
- a. Dance-a-thon! Shelley Powers came (in tutu) to discuss the kick-off process. The goal for fund-raising is \$7,000. Assemblies for all grades on 10/15. Dancing happens in the morning, parents and family members are welcome. Volunteers are needed also.
 - b. ESCCA: Pumpkin Patch on Central Street 10/23 7-9 PM
 - c. Science Saturday-if you would like to volunteer, to lead a class or attend, contact Tricia Nameth-Rich.

- VII. Upcoming Events:
- a. Dance-a-thon 11/5
 - b. 11/13 Principal's Coffee – 8:30 AM
 - c. Science Saturday 11/15 9-11:00AM
 - d. Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend-11/26-11/30

- VIII. New Business
- a. PBIS is looking for new celebration ideas, easy and inexpensive. Just a way for the students to celebrate and take a break from their routine.

Meeting Adjourned