

## Ithaca PTO Meeting Minutes July 19, 2017

Present: Charlene Layton, Jodi Abarca, Melanie Foege, Monica Kershner, Kim Jonquist, Kathleen Schoen, Julie Prouty, Shelly Pluemer, Susan Bloczynski, Jill Plonka

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Bloczynski at 5:30 pm at Kelly's Coffehouse in Richland Center.

### **Member Forum-** None

**Discussion of PTAs vs. PTOs** – Although we have been a PTSA for 30 years, it has come to Susan's attention that technically we should be paying dues to be a part of the state PTA as the acronym "PTSA" falls under their jurisdiction. So to avoid members needing to pay dues of approximately \$7.50 per person, Susan recommended we change our name from PTSA to PTO – Parent, Teacher, Student Organization (instead of Association), which does not fall under any PTO requirement for collecting dues from members. All members in attendance agreed that the change was minor and avoiding dues was critical to recruiting and retaining active members. Jill will look into changing our name on our EIN number and with the Boxtops and Milk Moola organizations. Susan will take care of our Facebook pages and contacting Robin to change the name on the school website. Susan and Kim will check with the bank and see if we will need new checks/account number.

### **Fair/Homecoming/Spirit sales Committee Report**

**Bounce House:** Jill gave the report on how plans for the fair are coming. They talked on Monday about renting a bounce house – the "Wizard 4-in-1" was the one selected – cost \$225. She got a quote on event insurance \$341 but will check with Thundershowers LLC to see if their insurance would cover our event. The committee decided to charge \$1 per child and they would get an X on their hand and they could bounce for 3-5 minutes and then go and get back in line as many times as they wanted to for that \$1. We would also separate the kids by size when going in the bounce house for safety.

**Games:** Vicki and Jodi will be in charge of the prize booth – tickets are earned by playing games and tickets are redeemed at the prize booth. We are going to get stuffed animal donations (washed) and items from Oriental Trading and Dollar Tree to serve as prizes. We will supply the tickets and groups/organizations will supply the games, the workers for the games and their own cash/cashbox. We will draft a letter to go out to all the teachers, 4-H groups, and area youth groups to see if they would like to run a game such as bean bag toss, washer toss, milk can toss, the fishing game, etc. Games would be located out on the blacktop on or near the playground.

**Facepainting:** Jodi will look into getting supplies and painters to set up near the games or in the MP room if rainy/cold weather.

**Dunk Tank:** Maybe do a field day in the spring and include this at that time.

**Food:** Jill Pinkstaff, Jenna, and Michele- Cotton Candy machine – Michele will be in charge of this and Jill Plonka will talk to Thundershowers about renting their large machine for \$50. Michele will look into sugar prices and bags. Jill Pinkstaff will talk to Lana Kennedy about her icee machine. If we can get that cleaned up and running Lana said we could borrow it. We will look into asking area restaurants to donate cups (Culvers, DQ, or McDonald's) and will purchase ingredients. We were still debating where to set up to sell – either the commons or run dropcords out on the playground area from the baseball concession stand and sell in the parking lot area. It will depend on the weather and permissions.

**Spirit Items:** Jenna, Jill Pinkstaff, and Heather Dickey are looking into new items to sell. Jenna is going to get 3 new designs from Brett Iverson. She also got a quote on a softer style t-shirt vs. the stiffer Gildan brands. The softer ones are only \$1-1.50 more. We are also looking to sell baseball caps, water bottles, travel mugs and a new style/color of can koozie. Heather is looking into pricing on these items.

**RR1 Popcorn** – The fundraising coordinator, Jill Plonka, will contact RR1 to let them know that we are interested in doing a sale again this year at about the same time with delivery the first week of November. We will not sell at the Ithaca fair. Selling will be done by elementary and any MS/HS students who wish to sell so all sales can be credited to the students for prizes yet to be determined.

**Halloween** – No committee report yet.

## **Christmas Activities Committee**

Kim gave a report on the committee meeting at Monica's last Sunday evening.

**Christmas Shop:** Jill Plonka and Shelly will be in charge of this. Christmas shop is for Elementary Students to buy gifts for mom, dad, siblings, and others. We will ask families before Thanksgiving to donate unused/slightly used items from home – not just toys – not large items – things that a kid could put in their backpack and bring to school. We would sort through items to make sure they are in good enough shape to sell. Jill said we could probably use items left over from the fair as well. Instead of trying to find a place in an already crowded school to set up the shop, we will take a cart filled with items for sale to each classroom providing 2 shopping days per class during one week. Teachers would sign up for times that work best for them to bring the cart into their classrooms. Hopefully we would be able to be available to all students (in case of absence). We would like to keep all/most items around 25-50 cents per item. Monica offered to have the HS girls basketball players help the kids wrap and we would ask for donations of wrapping paper and materials.

**Gingerbread House Building Contest:** Monica and Kim will be in charge of this. This will be a fun family event for the entire school (all ages). Date: Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 5 PM in the Commons. The PTSO will provide the Royal Icing, large popsicle sticks for spreading, bowls, and graham crackers and a number for entering their house in the contest. Families would have to supply their own base for their Gingerbread house (like cardboard wrapped in tin foil) and bring a candy/decoration to share. These would be put out on plates in the middle so everyone would have access to them. When finished, the houses would be put on display with their number to be judged by 2-3 staff/community members. We will sell concessions as well.

**Silent Auction:** Rita K. and Jen W will be in charge of this. We would like to hold a silent auction fundraiser for the PTSO. We will ask area businesses and families for donations for the themed baskets. The PTSO members will assemble the baskets where needed. We will then display the items in the Commons one week before the Winter Choir concert in December with the winners of the baskets announced the night of the concert.

**Movie Night:** We discussed that this would be a great activity for mid-winter/end of January. We will discuss at a later date.

**Yearbook (Elementary)** – Susan said after this year she would prefer to give up doing the Elementary Yearbook and was asking anyone if they would be interested in taking it over. She would gladly train someone this year and have them work with her on it. Contact Susan if you are interested.

## **Old Business**

**Laminator** – Julie Prouty and Kathleen Schoen are working on a solution to this issue – fix or replace. They will keep us posted if they need assistance from the PTSO.

**Survey results** - Meetings will be held during the 2017-18 school year on the **Third Wednesdays of the month at 3:30 PM** from September to May in Mrs. Sprecher's room or the LMC – whichever is available. If you are unable to make meetings, we have the PTSO discussions page in which you may comment, discuss, and/or question any issue or idea.

## **New Business**

**Open House night Aug. 31** - Kim has offered to sell items at open house night so new families can purchase Ithaca t-shirts. We would like to get the new t-shirts, esp. the kids sizes, in before then. Susan and Jill Plonka also offered to help with the sales. We asked Julie Prouty to mention that we will be selling at this time in her letter that goes out to the families to remind them of open house night (Aug. 31) so they bring money.

**Social Media Coordinator-** We would like more things posted on our Facebook page than just meetings and minutes – fun stuff, informational, etc. Currently officers have access to post on our PTSO page. If anyone would like to be in charge of this, let Susan know.

**Middle School Yearbook** – Susan has obtained permission to do a separate MS yearbook as they don't get many pages in the HS one and that one is much more expensive. The PTSO decided to cover the costs and sell like the elementary yearbook. Susan has some MS students selected to help her with the project and she will serve as the advisor to the yearbook club. If we decide to purchase a nice camera for the students to use Mrs. Willis has offered to store the camera in her room.

**School forest geocaching project** - Susan discussed the possibility of putting geocaches up in the school forest. All thought it was a great idea and would spur more interest in our forest. We tabled action on this until the August meeting so we can talk to Mr. Cler and Mr. Klang.

**MS/HS babysitters for meetings** – It was discussed that one way to bring more people to meetings was to offer free babysitting services to members. We would like this group to not only discuss ideas and plans for our school but to be a fun social group for community members as well. Monica had volunteered her daughters when they weren't in sports or other after school activities. We think we could find students who would be willing to do this as it would count towards hours for the PTSO scholarship.

### Other

**Online clothing sales:** It was discussed to open the online apparel shop with Brett Iverson around August 21 so that people could order Ithaca apparel to have before Homecoming. We could have it open from Aug. 21 to around Sept. 8 for delivery around Sept. 22. At open house night we could have the sales form for anyone who would like to order at that time and turn in to the school by Sept. 8. Then we could open the store again in November for Christmas sales and possibly again in the spring. Jill Plonka will look into this.

**Homecoming Week Games Night (Thursday)** – Melanie suggested that we sell concessions after school until 7 that night as many of those kids don't go home and are at school all evening for the games. We could get permission to use the kitchen and the commons. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

**Valentines Night Out** – We discussed possibly doing a service for parents on Valentine's evening – we provide babysitters and activities for kids at school while moms and dads go out for dinner. We will discuss this further at a future meeting.

**Donkey Basketball** – Haven't had this fundraiser at Ithaca for quite a few years. We will discuss at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be an appetizer and dessert party **on Wednesday, August 23, at 5:30 PM in the FACE room (Mrs. Sprecher's room)** at the school. If you have a child in 4K-6<sup>th</sup> please bring an appetizer, if you have a child in 7-12<sup>th</sup>, please bring a dessert. If you have children in both or neither, bring whichever you like! Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.