

## Ithaca PTSO Meeting Minutes February 21, 2018

Present: Jodi Abarca, Kim Jongquist, Kara Steinmetz, Shelly Pluemer, Crystal Peer, Pam Moser, Andrea Newkirk, Melissa Sprecher, Jill Plonka  
Guest Speaker: Chelsea Wunnicke

The meeting was called to order by VP Pam Moser.

Chelsea Wunnicke, our county Family Living extension agent, spoke about the Raising a Thinking Child series. Classes start at Ithaca on April 12 from 5:15-7:00 PM and run 5 consecutive Thursdays (until May 17). Cost for the book is \$25 but if your family is unable to afford this, you may request (no questions asked) a free book. The series assists parents on how to work with their children to 1. Control anger and frustration, 2. Think about alternative solutions to problems, 3. Encourage patience, sharing, and taking turns, and 4. Help them think for themselves. The PTSO is helping with this event by arranging a **free meal and free babysitting services** to attendees. Pam mentioned that the NHS has mandatory volunteer hours they need to do. Melissa said sitters could also get PTSO volunteer credit toward scholarships. The meal will be served at 4:30 in the school commons until the time of the program. Brochures already went home with elementary students. Jill mentioned that she could make another reminder flyer and send home with students informing them also of the free meal and babysitting. You can sign up for the series by filling out a registration form and sending to or dropping off at the extension office or by registering online at <https://goo.gl/fJo6mT> by April 6.

**Treasurer's report:** Our current balance is \$7399.24

**Fundraising Coordinator's Report:** Boxtops/Milk caps collection: Jill will be picking up Boxtops etc. by this Thursday to get them sent out by February 28.

**Volunteer Coordinator's Report:** Melissa said the PTSO is sponsoring the teacher meal on the Thursday conference night. They will be doing a baked potato bar and members of the food committee have been asked to bring various items like potato toppings, salads, and bars/desserts. Her students will wash and wrap the potatoes. She will get the bill for the potatoes to Kim at a later date. Thank you for coordinating this, Melissa!

### **New Business:**

School garage sale: the school will be having a school-wide garage sale on Saturday, March 10. Jill asked the membership if they'd like to have a table at the garage sale in the community gym to sell items. There may be a cost of \$25. Members voted in favor of having a table. Jill mentioned that we are low on the soft material adult t-shirts but this could be a great place to liquidate all the old purple t-shirts from 2 years ago. Supplies of the new children's shirts and onesies are adequate as are many of the other spirit items sold last fall at Homecoming.

Literacy series: Mrs. Peer discussed the Literacy series sponsored by CESA 3 that will be taking place at Ithaca on 3 consecutive Mondays – March 5, 12, & 19 from 3:30-5:30 each day. Families are asked to RSVP by March 2 by calling the Ithaca School District at 585-2512 or by notifying your child's teacher. **Cost is free!** The program is geared towards parents of children in grades 4K-2<sup>nd</sup> but all are welcome to attend. At this program parents will learn about children's reading and writing skills, reading testing, how to access resources online and in your community, and participants will receive free books for your home library. Mrs. Peer and the MS Student council are providing the snacks, meal, and babysitters. Thank you Mrs. Peer!

Lit Wars Volunteers: The school is hosting a Lit Wars competition on Thursday, April 26. Jill said they will need about 4 volunteers to help with setting up at the community gym and getting lunch ready for

approx. 100 students and teachers. The food is paid for – they just need the helpers to serve it and help with setting up all the tables and chairs for the participants and then cleaning up after the award presentation. Working time would be from about 9:30-2 with clean up. We can get this better lined up at the March meeting.

### **Funds requests:**

HS/MS speaker for April 12: Ms. Sprecher spoke about Harriet Turk whom she has contacted about having come in and speak to the MS/HS student body about developing leadership skills, standing up for what you believe in, and most importantly, how to be REAL. Ms. Turk's programs are interactive, entertaining, and thought-provoking. After the presentation, students will get into small groups and discuss the program during the shortened day. This program was suggested by the Student Council as the MS/HS hasn't had a guest speaker assembly in a long time. Ms. Sprecher mentioned how proud she was of her senior leadership on the council this year. The total cost of the program will be \$2000 unless Ms. Sprecher can find another school nearby to also host a program then the cost could be split. She asked the PTSO to contribute \$500 towards this speaker. Members voted unanimously to contribute \$500 to this very worthwhile endeavor.

Family Reading Night: Mrs. Newkirk talked about the Family Reading Night that will be held on Wednesday April 11 from 3-5 PM in the library. The theme this year is "Camp S'more – the S'more You Read, the S'more You Know!" Mrs. Newkirk was asking for \$500 to put towards books to give away at the event. We have given funds to this event the past 3 years. Members voted unanimously to contribute \$500 for the books.

Dr. Seuss speaker: Mrs. Newkirk also talked about Shelley Meiss – a retired educator from Riverdale – who goes around to schools doing presentations on Dr. Seuss dressed as the Cat in the Hat. The cost is \$20 which Mrs. Meiss then donates to her local Delta Kappa Gamma society. Members voted unanimously to pay \$20 for this speaker.

Playground Commitment: Mrs. Steinmetz gave us an update on what's happening with the playground project. Last fall a sand pit area and sledding hill were installed by Randy and Logan Olson. They donated their time and equipment to create the area for our school – we cannot thank them enough for everything they have done for our playground project! The few days the kids have been able to sled ride this winter have been a big hit! When spring comes, the hill will get reseeded and the kids won't be able to use it until grass grows in. The next phase is having Mark Alt from Ridgetop create the boulder wall area in the sand pit this spring as soon as he can get to it. This project will have the biggest price tag of any that has been undertaken so far. This summer the plan is to create more obstacle courses, fill in the swing area with wood chips, and start planning for a MS/HS area. There are also plans to provide sun sails over the sand pit to provide shade and to get posts in for hammocks. The PTSO had committed \$3000 a year towards the playground project for 4-5 years. Mrs. Steinmetz wanted to make sure this was still in our plan. Members agreed that this was very important for our school to revitalize our playground to better serve our children's needs so we will again donate \$3000 to the playground project this spring. This will ensure our yearend balance is below the \$5000 mark as is required of a non-taxpaying charitable school organization as well.

Thank you to Kyla and Trista Pluemer for babysitting for us!

The next PTSO meeting will be **Wednesday, March 21 at 3:30 PM in the Library**. Hope to see you there!