

**Keller Elementary PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2023  
Keller Elementary Learning Commons**

**In Attendance:** Carie Hooker, Pilar Calderon, Sarah Lutz, Melissa Berry, Deb Anderson, Abbey Dinsmore, Jennifer Applebee, Paul Urbiel, Sarah Culpepper, Melissa Golpe, Erin McNitt, Jennifer Brown, Marcie Dryden, Laura Stankiewicz, Rhea Georgiadis, Kathryn Naas, Jessica Kammann, James Gingell, Charity Gingell, Catherine Morris, Jennifer Streamer, Jessica Hoffman

**Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.**

**Approval of September 2023 Minutes**

- James Gingell made a motion to approve the minutes; Sarah Culpepper seconded. Motion passed, minutes approved.

**Principal's Report – Marcie Dryden**

- Upcoming important dates:
  - Student late start/staff professional development: 10/11 and 10/18
  - PAC meeting: 10/17
  - PTA Book Fair: 10/23-10/27
  - Half Day: 10/31
    - Half-day dismissal is now 12:15 pm. Will be staggered 12:15/12:20 pm.
- Halloween Festivities on 10/31
  - Students may wear costumes or orange/black/purple colors.
  - There will be an outdoor Halloween parade at 11:45 am around the walking track. Same path as the Huskies Run.
    - Students will return to their classrooms afterward for dismissal. There should be no early sign-outs unless there is an emergency.
    - In the event of inclement weather, there will be no parade for visitors. Kindergarten will still walk through the school for other students/staff.
  - Room parents are working with teachers for classroom parties.
    - Cider and donuts will be provided at parties.
    - No extra treats or candies should be brought in.
  - Costume guidelines:
    - No masks
    - Not demeaning to other ethnic groups, cultures, etc.
    - No violence
    - No toy weapons
    - No liquid or spray accessories
    - Not overly scary
- It was a great day for the fun run.
  - Thank you to Jessica and Melissa for all their hard work and another successful event.
  - Thank you to PTA and volunteers who help make it happen.

- Next week will be the start of Data Days. Mrs. Dryden, along with Kara Daunt, Tiffany Jackson, and classroom teachers will be reviewing all student data to determine what the students need to be successful.
  - Want to be sure no students are missing out on additional supports, if needed.
- Amy Lipple has been hired as the new speech language pathologist. She starts 10/16 and is excited to hit the ground running.

#### **Board Member's Report – Deb Anderson**

- The next school board meeting is this Thursday, 10/12, at 6:30 pm.
  - A proclamation in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day will be considered.
  - Hispanic Heritage Month, which was recognized at the September board meeting, runs through October 15.
- This is National School Lunch Week for our state.
  - The state Education Department asks school districts, educators, and students to join in celebrating the importance of healthy meals for students.
  - Let's remember to thank our lunch workers in the cafeteria, kitchens, lunchrooms, and out on the playgrounds.
- The district's long-range plan has been posted on the website. It was reviewed as part of the State of the Schools address.
  - It is also on Royal Oak Schools YouTube channel.
- Royal Oak Schools has an app. See your app store if you still need to download it.
- Royal Oak High School is hosting a Future Fair on 10/18 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm in the ROHS Cafeteria.
  - All are welcome! Families, students, siblings, etc.
  - Come to the fair to meet representatives from colleges, universities, trades, businesses, and more.
  - More information to come about this.
- Interviews for a new DEI Coordinator are being held October 18, with a second round planned for October 24.
  - Applications are being reviewed to determine which applicants are invited to interview.
  - This is an important position, and the district is intentional in posting for a new coordinator.
- It is important for all parents/guardians to attend Parent Teacher Conferences.
  - Conferences kick off this month with ROHS and ROMS.
  - Elementary conferences are in November.

#### **Teacher's Report – Laura Stankiewicz**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade has booked their first field trip for Monday, November 13, to Troy Historic Museum.
- Thank you for the fun run. The kids had a good time.

### **President's Report – Carie Hooker**

- PTA Council meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. Committee chairs and Executive Board members of Keller PTA are encouraged to attend.
  - Tiffany Vosburg has been appointed to State PTA.
- Committee Reminders
  - Communicate early!
  - Please review Keller PTA Procedures and Standing Rules
    - These can be found on the PTA website under PTA Info -> PTA Forms

### **Treasurer's Report – Sarah Lutz**

- Budget numbers are up to date as of Friday.
  - Activity in both Husky Run and Winter Market
  - Teacher funds are being spent.
  - \$122 came in from Spiritwear.
    - Link to store on website
    - Spiritwear money is down a little bit due to the Back to School Picnic being cancelled.
  - Received \$180 from Kroger Community Rewards
  - Paid \$40 for Council dues
  - Paid bus deposit for 4<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Lansing

### **Committee Reports:**

- Huskies Run – Jessica Kammann
  - We are \$9 shy of \$33k and expect we will reach that before the donation window closes tonight.
  - Since the school goal was met and exceeded, Mrs. Dryden will be silly stringed along with 9 other staff members. Date is TBD.
- Parent/Adult Social Event – James Gingell
  - It was a fun night with the “Huskyclaw” house taking home the prize.
  - Thanks to all who came. James and Charity are looking forward to next year.
- Staff Appreciation – Jessica Kammann
  - We received a nice donation from Meijer. Jessica is trying to do something with that for October.
  - In November, conference meals will be provided again for the teachers/staff.
  - Bread Day will take place again just before Thanksgiving.
- Restaurant Night – Melissa Berry
  - Marco's Pizza night is this Thursday, 10/12, from 4:00 – 11:00 pm.
    - Flyers went home today, or some may go home tomorrow.
    - Coupons with online code are on the bottom of the flyer.
    - Do not have to show flyer at store.
- Book Fair – Carie Hooker
  - Fall Book Fair is 10/23-10/27
  - Information will be coming home soon
    - Students will be getting our PTA flyer as well as the Scholastic flyer.
  - E-Wallets are an option to use again.
  - Sign-Up Genius will be coming out soon for volunteers to help with the book fair.

- Winter Market – Carie Hooker, on behalf of committee chairs
  - Winter Market is Saturday, 11/4.
  - Still looking for vendors; currently have about 30 but would like 60.
    - Deadline to register is coming up on 10/15
  - More information is available on our PTA website.
  - This year there will be a craft corner for kids.
- Reflections Art Contest – Carie Hooker, on behalf of committee chairs
  - Reflections is a National PTA art contest.
  - 6 areas of art: Film Production, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, Literature, Photography
  - All students are eligible to participate.
  - This year’s theme is “I am Hopeful Because...”
  - No dates yet. More information will be coming soon.
  - Volunteers will be needed to judge artwork and for the awards ceremony.

### **Old Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- September Membership Contest – \$25 gift card to Sherlie’s Delights and a custom Keller tote bag from the spiritwear store.
  - Winner (drawn by Melissa Berry) was Dawn Kassab.

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 pm.**