

**Keller Elementary PTA
General Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023
Online via Zoom**

In Attendance: Carie Hooker, Melissa Berry, Marcie Dryden, Laura Stankiewicz, Brooke Ryan, Charity Gingell, Sarah Lutz, Jennifer MacKenzie, Lindsey McLellan, Jennifer Streamer, Jessica Kammann, Jennifer Brown, Melissa Golpe, Edna Lorenz, Emily Bogart, Margaret Blount, Deb Anderson, Dawn Smith, John Staniszewski, Pilar Calderon

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of October 2023 Minutes

- Deb Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes; Jennifer Streamer seconded. Motion passed, minutes approved.

Principal's Report – Marcie Dryden

- Upcoming important dates:
 - 11/15 and 11/29: Student late start/staff professional development
 - 11/16:
 - Half-Day for students (12:15 pm dismissal)
 - Parent/teacher conferences 1:00 – 7:00 pm (by appointment only)
 - 11/20: All City Concert for 5th Grade at ROHS, 7:00 pm
 - 11/22 – 11/24: No School - Holiday
 - 11/30: Parent/teacher conferences 4:00 – 7:00 pm (by appointment only)
- Shout out to Princeton Lockett from Mrs. Strong's 5th grade class who published a book called "Secret of the Wolves." Mrs. Dryden and some of his classmates were able to join him for his book launch last Saturday. More plans are in the works to recognize Princeton, such as:
 - Sharing his accomplishment at a school board meeting
 - Tie-in during March is Reading Month
- Thank you to the PTA and Staff Appreciation chairs, Jessica, Marisa, and Danielle, for the caramel apple nachos bar. It was delicious!
- Congratulations to Kelly Stanesa on her retirement after over 20 years of serving our Royal Oak Schools!
 - Starting 12/1 she will be our new Learning Support Teacher 3 days a week, working with Mrs. Jackson our MTSS Coordinator.
- Congratulations to Deb Anderson on being named the 2023 Thomas F. Wurdock Award recipient by the Royal Oak Historical Society in recognition of all her volunteer work!
- JEDI Update (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; previously called DEI Committee)
 - JEDI Leadership Team has divided into 3 subcommittees that impact all stakeholders.
 - Student Awareness: Bethany Carline and Valerie Ault
 - Staff Professional Development: Kara Daunt and Marcie Dryden
 - Community Events: Julie Molnar and Andrea Kirkwood

- They will be organizing Community Inreach and Outreach and hosting a Keller and Oakland Elementary DEI Community Adventure Series (new name to be determined soon).
 - This series will be an exploration of the heritage, culture, language, and diversity, equity, and inclusion of the people in our community.
- Save the Date:
 - Tuesday, 12/19 – 168 Asian Market – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
 - Families will enjoy socializing, food tasting, and a language lesson, along with a scavenger hunt.
 - Tuesday, 1/23 – American Polish Century Club (and possibly Polish Market) – 4:10 pm – 5:30 pm.
 - Families will enjoy socializing, food tasting, and a language lesson, along with a possible dance lesson.
 - TBD – Celebrate Pride with Rainbow Roller Skating
 - Families, wear your rainbows to support our Royal Oak Students’ Pride Community, have some pizza and roller skate the evening away!
- They are also working on an outing to celebrate our Hispanic Culture and our Arabic Culture.
- The JEDI Committee will be coming to a future PTA meeting to share what they are working on and future plans.
- Reminder of good ways to stay up to date:
 - Follow “Principal Dryden” on Facebook.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/principal.dryden.3/>
 - Read the “Keeping up with Keller” newsletters that come out on Fridays.

Board Member’s Report – Deb Anderson

- The school board has approved the hiring of the new DEI coordinator, Ashley Phillips.
 - Her first day with the district will be 11/27.
 - A letter was emailed to all parents last Friday.
- Kindergarten Information Night is scheduled for 1/31. Enrollment starts 2/1.
 - Schools of Choice will be discussed at the December school board meeting. If approved, schools of choice enrollment would be 3/1 – 3/29.
 - Watch for more details from principal newsletters and information from the district.
- A parent workshop regarding social media’s effects on adolescent mental health is being planned for January, featuring Nicole Runyon, LSMW. More info to come.
- Thanksgiving break is coming! There is no school 11/22 – 11/24.

Teacher’s Report – Laura Stankiewicz

- 5th Grade:
 - Students made posters exploring symbols and cultures from indigenous peoples of North America, kingdoms of West Africa, and the modern day US in their How We Express Ourselves IB unit.
 - Pictures of the students’ posters were shared from Mr. Tucker and Mrs. Strong.
 - Mrs. Dziengowski – Students also finished working on their personal narratives.

- Kindergarten:
 - Mrs. McLeod – Thank you for all the books.
 - Mrs. Liefer –
 - The kids handed out yellow paper ribbons for World Kindness Day.
 - Kindergarten has been working on their turkey disguise project, which is always a favorite.
- Art:
 - Students are working on color theory in art. Third grade has been studying prisms and rainbows. Kindergarten is learning about primary colors.
- 1st Grade:
 - First grade took their field trip to Troy Historic Village today.
 - Thank you for the caramel apple bar and the books.

President's Report – Carie Hooker

- Update to Royal Oak PTA Council meetings:
 - Meetings are the 1st Monday of every month.
 - All committee chairs and board members are invited to attend.
 - Council meetings are a great way to collaborate with other schools.
 - Let Carie know if you are interested in attending one of the meetings.
- If chairing a committee, review rules and procedures first, as answers to many questions can be found there.

Treasurer's Report – Sarah Lutz

- More teachers have used their classroom funds.
- Finished paying for Husky Run items and recording donations
- Paid MI PTA Council dues
- Received money for Winter Market tables and Book Fair
- Received \$364 from Marco's Pizza Restaurant Night
- Paid for donuts and cider for the Walk to School event
- Received a \$2000 donation from Arts Beats & Eats
 - Jon Witz stopped by to personally deliver the check. He credited Mayor Michael Fournier for giving a big push for Keller to receive the money. Thank you to Mayor Fournier.

Committee Reports:

- Staff Appreciation – Jessica Kammann
 - Conference meals will be provided for the staff this Thursday. Dinner will be from WOW Mediterranean.
 - Bread Day is coming
 - Currently asking families to donate.
 - Have again partnered with Bread by Crispellis.
 - Bread donations will be delivered to the school on Tuesday 11/21.
- Restaurant Night – Melissa Berry
 - Tuesday, 12/5 – Red Robin
 - Proceeds will go to 5th Grade Committee
 - Monday, 12/18 – Ray's Ice Cream

- Book Fair – Carie Hooker
 - Thank you volunteers for helping us have a successful book fair.
 - Sales were about \$10,000, which is on track with previous fall book fairs.
 - We will get 50% of the net amount in Scholastic Dollars.
 - There will be another book fair in the spring for March is Reading Month.
- Winter Market – Brooke Ryan
 - The Winter Market took place on Saturday, 11/4.
 - We were aiming for 60 tables; about 45 signed up but we had a couple of cancellations so there were only about 40 selling.
 - The children’s corner crafts and door prize were a hit. We might rethink the gift wrapping for next year.
 - We made about \$915.
 - Some feedback received:
 - Vendors thought it was a little too early in the season, prefer to be closer to holiday.
 - Some liked it better when the market was an after-school event instead of weekend.
- Talent Show – Melissa Golpe
 - There will be a Talent Show Workshop on Tuesday, 12/5.
 - Talent Show auditions will be held 1/10 and 1/11 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm.
 - Flyers will be coming out right after Thanksgiving.
- DEI – Melissa Golpe
 - There will be a Restorative Practices in-person event on 11/29 from 7-8 pm. Will share when more information comes out.
- Reflections Art Contest – Jennifer MacKenzie
 - Reflections is a National PTA art contest. The contest is for all students.
 - Flyers will be going out hopefully by the end of the week.
 - All info will be on the flyers and will also be on the website.
 - This year’s theme is “I Am Hopeful Because...”
 - The deadline to enter is Friday, 12/15.
 - There will be a panel for judging and prizes.
 - Winners go on to the State level.
 - Possibly will have winning art on display at the IFFF in the spring.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Next Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm.