

**Keller Elementary PTA
General Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023
Online via Zoom**

In Attendance: Carie Hooker, Melissa Berry, Jennifer Streamer, Jennifer Brown, Deb Anderson, Sarah Lutz, Margaret Blount, Charity Gingell, Marcie Dryden, Jessica Kammann, Libby Hampson, Jennifer MacKenzie, Melissa Golpe, Belem Morales, Phaiphin Anongdeth, Pilar Calderon, Laura Shultz

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of November 2023 Minutes

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

Principal's Report – Marcie Dryden

- Upcoming important dates:
 - 12/13: Late start for students
 - We will not have another late start until 1/31.
 - 12/20: Husky Packs
 - 12/25 – 1/5: No School - Holiday Break
- We are having a Winter Eras Spirit Week the week of 12/18 – 12/22.
 - Teachers will be posting what the week looks like on SeeSaw.
 - It will be in the weekly newsletter this Friday and was also posted on the “Principal Dryden” Facebook page.
- MLK Jr. Day of Service is on Monday, 1/15, at ROMS.
 - 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. will be breakfast and sign making.
 - 10:00 a.m. is the Freedom Walk.
 - Several members of Student Council, along with some teachers, will be there to participate in the walk.
 - Keller will be collecting for care packages for the homeless.
 - Student Council will be putting the care packages together.
 - Each grade level will have a specific item to donate.
 - Donations will be collected until the week before the 15th.
- Shout out to the 28 4th and 5th graders who competed for the first time in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge.
 - We had 4 sponsors from the high school robotics team who coached our students.
 - They were led by Sarah Milligan, a former Keller student. Sarah is a junior at ROHS.
 - She's excited to bring this to all the elementary schools, and we're planning an information night for all Royal Oak students.
 - Special shoutout to Mrs. McLeod who was the teacher overseeing the club.
 - The kids enjoyed themselves and had a great experience. Thank you to all who brought this opportunity to our kids.

- Thank you to PTA and all the families who donated to Bread Day.

Board Member's Report – Deb Anderson

- The next school board meeting will be this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the board office.
- Our return to school date after the winter break will be Monday, January 8, 2024.
- On Monday, January 15, Royal Oak Schools will be working again with Berkley Schools and our new partner, Clawson Schools, on a day of celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
 - It will be held at ROMS starting at 8:30 a.m.
 - Donations are being accepted for various charities.
 - There will be on-site volunteer opportunities.
 - Everyone is invited to participate in the community walk/march.
- On Thursday, January 18, we are sponsoring a Family Opportunity Fair to allow parents and guardians to meet with and hear from valued departments and community partners who service our district.
 - This is for new and existing families.
 - A list of confirmed participants will be published soon.
 - It will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the board office.
- On Monday, January 29, guest speaker Nicole Runyon, a clinical social worker/psychotherapist, will be presenting on the impact of social media on young children and teens.
 - She was a featured speaker during staff professional days in August. Her message and expertise were appreciated.
 - This session is open to everyone.
 - It will be held at the board office.
- On Wednesday, January 31, each elementary school will be hosting their kindergarten information night.
 - Parents can learn about our kindergarten and DK programs and curriculum, including details about the enrollment process.
 - More information can be found on the district website, and the principals will share more as well.

Teacher's Report – Carie Hooker on behalf of Laura Stankiewicz

- DK is learning about Community Helpers and all types of jobs in our community.
 - They had their own career day at school with vets, nurses, attorneys, and many others coming in.
- 1st Grade
 - They are learning about Holidays Around the World.
 - Polish Village is donating latkes for the entire first grade for Friday. (Please visit them in Hamtramck; they are cash only.)
 - Mrs. S, Piwko, and Smith just returned from an IB conference in FL about social-emotional learning.

- DEI
 - Mrs. Kirkwood and Julie Molnar are doing family field trips this year for their Who We Are Adventure Series.
 - The first one is Tuesday, 12/19 at 168 Asian Mart.
 - WKBS students are going to make flyers and will also publicize it on WKBS.
 - The next one is 1/23 at Polish Century Club.
 - They are working on two more field trips.
- Big thank you for the staff conference dinners.
- 4th Grade would like to thank the PTA for the cozy buses for their field trip to Lansing.

President's Report – Carie Hooker

- Council Meetings are always the first Monday of every month. PTA Executive Board members and committee chairs are welcome to attend these meetings.
 - Founder's Day was discussed at last week's meeting.
 - This year's Founder's Day will be 2/5/24.
 - Location is still TBD. Founder's Day is often at Club Venetian in Madison Heights, but that has not been confirmed for this year.

Treasurer's Report – Sarah Lutz

- Money from the Winter Market was deposited.
- Wrote one more check for teacher funds (\$100).

Committee Reports:

- Staff Appreciation – Jessica Kammann
 - Last month we had Bread Day. Thank you to all the families who donated as well as our partner, Bread by Crispelli's.
 - Conference meals were provided for both conference dates.
 - 1st one was catered by WOW Mediterranean.
 - 2nd was sandwich wraps from The Lunch Café in Berkley.
- Restaurant Night – Melissa Berry
 - Ray's Ice Cream on Monday, 12/18 from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 - Lily's Seafood on 1/17
- Green Schools – Carie Hooker on behalf of Emily Bogart
 - Will be sharing a composting update in the next PTA newsletter as well as in Mrs. Dryden's newsletter.
- Performing Arts/Talent Show – Melissa Golpe
 - Information day was held last week. Only a few came but we were able to answer some questions and give them information.
 - Lots of kids have been turning in their forms. We will start inputting the information and contacting them about auditions.
 - Auditions will be held 1/10 and 1/11.
 - The Talent Show is 3/1.
 - We are going to do t-shirts this year for all the kids who perform.

- Reflections Art Contest – Jen MacKenzie
 - The submission box is in the hallway near the office.
 - Friday, 12/15, is the deadline to enter.
 - If someone **really** wants to participate but cannot meet the deadline, please have them reach out to the Reflections email. Maybe something can be worked out so they can still participate.
- Late Start – Carie Hooker on behalf of Emily Bogart
 - Flyers for 2nd session registration will be going home soon.
 - Programs offered are Bright Loritos, Chess Wizards, and Young Rembrandts.
 - Second session begins 1/31.
 - Information is also in Mrs. Dryden’s newsletter.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 p.m.