

**Keller Elementary PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2024  
Online via Zoom**

**In Attendance:** Carie Hooker, Laura Shultz, Marcie Dryden, Jennifer Brown, Sarah Lutz, Charity Gingell, Melissa Berry, Sarah Culpepper, Margaret Blount, Pilar Calderon, Deb Anderson, Edna Lorenz, Jennifer Streamer, Melissa Golpe

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

**Approval of February 2024 Minutes**

- Pilar Calderon made a motion to approve the minutes; Sarah Lutz seconded. Motion passed; minutes approved.

**Principal's Report – Marcie Dryden**

- Upcoming important dates:
  - 3/13 and 3/20: Late start for students/professional development for staff
  - 3/15: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip to Henry Ford Museum
  - 3/19: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade music concert (7-8 p.m.)
  - 3/21: World Down Syndrome Day, wear mixed socks
  - 3/25 – 3/29: No School, Spring Break
- Down Syndrome Awareness Day
  - Today is the last day to donate socks to wear on World Down Syndrome Day, 3/21. All socks should have a print on them, no solid colors. Donations will be accepted in a box at the front entrance of Keller, or you can click the Amazon link and have them sent straight to the school!
    - Student Senate will collect, mismatch, and sell the donated socks. The mismatched socks will be sold on 3/18 and 3/19 for \$2/pair. Proceeds will go to World Down Syndrome Awareness.
- Family Field Trip
  - Last week was the Family Field Trip to the American Polish Cultural Center. Over 40 members of the Keller family participated in the event.
    - Attendees enjoyed traditional Polish cuisine, including pierogis and potato pancakes, and had the opportunity to learn a few dance moves.
      - Two of our students – Scarlet from Mr. Tucker's class and Anita in Ms. Kirkwood's class – demonstrated their dance skills.
    - The event also featured a session focused on learning conversational Polish phrases.
    - Overall, it was a great outing.
  - There will be one more outing this year with roller skating.
- Soup & Salad with the Super
  - Lunch with the Superintendent and ROHS seniors will take place 11:30 – 12:30 on 3/20 at the Senior Center.

- Green Schools
  - Keller has received Emerald status again! Evergreen status is the highest honor you can hold as a Green School. Way to go, Huskies!!
  - Thank you to Emily Bogart and Edna Lorenz for filling out the lengthy application and sharing all the “green” things we do at Keller.
  - Thank you to PTA for making sure we have someone chairing that committee so that we can be recognized for all the things that we do.
- March is Reading Month
  - Thank you to PTA and Laura Shultz for having author Tyler Benson in for a visit. He is an author from Michigan.
  - Lots of family members have come in to read as mystery readers. Thank you to all who have participated. Our students just love it!
  - Princeton and Mrs. Dryden have been on an “assembly circuit,” visiting every classroom to discuss his book and answer questions about his process.

### **Board Member’s Report – Jennifer Brown on behalf of Deb Anderson**

- The next board meeting is this Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
- March is Reading Month: activities highlight the importance of reading with, to, and in front of children.
  - Many staff and parents will be guest readers in the coming weeks.
  - The theme for Read Across America 2024 is Create and Celebrate a Nation of Diverse Readers. Ashley Phillips is working with school teams to organize the guest readers and assist with book selection.
- Information for Summer School will be shared in the coming weeks.
  - Due to the expiration of COVID relief grant funds (ESSER), free summer school will only be available to students receiving special education and/or learning support services.
  - Programs will be offered to all other students for a fee, which is yet to be determined.
- Spring Break is March 25-29. Classes resume on Monday, April 1.
  - The schools will be closed; Board Office is open Monday-Thursday that week but closed Friday, March 29.
- Soup and Salad with the Super will be held at the RO Senior Center on March 20 and is open to all.
  - ROHS seniors (students) will help serve and facilitate the discussion and Q&A regarding our schools and our new strategic plan with Mary Beth.
  - RSVP is requested.

### **Teacher’s Report – Carie Hooker on behalf of Laura Stankiewicz**

- Kindergarten and DK
  - Headed to Macomb Community College on 3/19 to see The Rainbow Fish.
  - House construction projects will begin after spring break.
- Mrs. Miller (4<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - If you ordered signed books from Tyler Benson, they were distributed today or will be tomorrow.

- Fifth Grade
  - Picking exhibition topics
  - Started colony projects
  - Also working on long division and building vocabulary

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

- Council Meetings - Executive Board and committee chairs are invited to attend these meetings.
- Committees: please review Chairperson Training often throughout the year; it details rules and guidelines for committee work.
- Annual Michigan PTA Conference is 4/19 – 4/21 in Dearborn.
  - Tickets can be purchased on the MI PTA website to attend the conference.
- PTA Advocacy Day is 3/12 in Lansing.
- PTA Council is looking for interested individuals to serve on their Executive Board.
  - All positions are open: President, Vice President (3), Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large.
  - Council EB is a more scaled back version if you'd like to be involved but aren't yet interested in being on an elementary-specific PTA EB.

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

- Received \$100 from Lily's Seafood Restaurant Night
- Paid school for copier costs from first semester
- Also paid for:
  - March is Reading Month prize jar
  - Teacher funds that were spent
  - Tyler Benson Author Visit
- We had a lot of money both in and out from the Talent Show.
- We received \$170 from Kroger receipts again.
  - If you shop at Kroger, and haven't already, select Keller PTA for Community Rewards, and we'll receive your contribution too.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Restaurant Night – Melissa Berry
  - Next restaurant night is Royal Oak Brewery on 3/19 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Performing Arts – Melissa Golpe
  - Talent Show was 3/1. We had 38 acts; over 60 kids performed. Everyone was amazing.
  - It was also great to have so many kids in the audience cheering on the performers.
  - Pictures and video were sent to all the parents.
  - \$1145 came in for the Talent Show. We spent \$490 so far and are waiting on the bill from facilities. Based on last year's cost (\$245), we are estimating to have about \$410 left over from the event.

- Book Fair – Carie Hooker
  - Spring Scholastic Book Fair is next week: March 18 – 22.
  - We are looking for volunteers. The Sign-Up Genius link is posted on Facebook and our website. Please consider signing up for a shift or two.
  - Shopping hours are 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. every day except Wednesday, which will be 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for those families who may not be able to make it right after school the other days.
  - Scholastic e-wallets are available again.
  - Book bins will be put out for the teachers to fill. This helps us donate books to the teacher classroom libraries. We will be donating books to the Keller Library as well.
- DEI – Melissa Golpe
  - District is going to send out another DEI survey, hopefully in the spring.
    - The last one was right after Covid, and the results weren't really that informative. The team feels like an updated survey now will provide a better picture.
  - DEI Committee is working with the IFFF team.
  - We are purchasing some items for the sensory room.
  - JEDI event coming up. Met with Ms. Kirkwood to make sure they have the information as well to share it with the PTA.
- IFFF/Silent Auction – Pilar Calderon
  - Met this past Friday with Ashley Phillips (Royal Oak Schools DEI Coordinator), Melissa Golpe and Jen MacKenzie (Keller PTA DEI Committee Chairs), and Ms. Kirkwood.
  - IFFF is Friday, 4/12.
    - There is no admission charge this year.
    - Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Event will run until 8:45 p.m.
  - Food
    - Food trucks will be outside again. Right now, Motor City Pasties is confirmed, thanks to Cheryl Edberg.
    - Bake sale with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee
    - There will also be some complimentary international snacks.
  - Craft stations
    - Masks
    - Kente cloth stamping
    - Arts & Scraps will be doing a sculpture activity.
  - This year the committee wanted to give a focus on art as part of the IFFF. They have been working with our art teacher Ms. Hemmingsen on ideas for making it a fun art event.
  - We will have the usual paper doll displays. Information has already been given to the kindergarten team to send home with their students so they can work on their dolls over spring break if they want to do one.
  - Sign-Up Genius link has been sent out for country boards.
    - Boards from last year were safely stored to be re-used.
    - Asking for different countries this year so we can have even more boards.
  - Encouraging attendees to dress in cultural attire, respectively, to reflect their family's traditions or heritage.

- There will be a student art display for all grade levels.
- There will be an international BINGO.
- There will be a sensory room.
- Entertainment
  - Polynesian Dancers of Michigan
  - African storytelling with David
- Silent Auction – Laura Shultz
  - Received some nice donations, especially from the staff members for lunch events
  - Received several local business donations: Lily Pulitzer, Miner’s Den, Oakland County Parks, Ray’s Ice Cream, etc. Hopefully there will be more.
  - Looking for globe and map donations. Maps can be any condition; they will be used for a craft.
- Assemblies – Laura Shultz
  - Author Visit from Tyler Benson
    - If there are any order issues, please let Laura know.
  - Ms. Kirkwood has scheduled a Native American speaker and teepee for 4/16.
  - SOCRRA is coming in on 4/25 and 4/26. They will be speaking to 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades.
  - Has spoken with Make Food Not Waste. They had reached out to Claudine.
    - Hoping to do a little something in the spring, especially for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders headed off to middle school.
    - Would like to do something more extensive in the fall to help motivate the kids to participate in composting.
    - [makefoodnotwaste.org](http://makefoodnotwaste.org) is the website if you’d like to learn more about the organization.

### **Old Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- Nominating Committee – Charity Gingell
  - Nominations for 2024 Executive Board are as follows:
    - President – Jen MacKenzie
    - VP of Communications – Jennifer Streamer
    - VP of Membership – Melissa Berry
    - Secretary – Jennifer Brown
    - Treasurer – Belem Morales
    - Member-at-Large – Charity Gingell
  - No objections; Nominations closed
  - Vote will take place at the April meeting.

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Keller Learning Commons**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:37 p.m.**