

Summit Middle School Minutes, Johnston IA

October 16, 2017

Attendees: Tracy Walker, Karmen Gano, Liz Meeley, Kristy Grimes, Carol Krois, Chelsey Tanke, Heather McMulin, Charles Njoya, Yolande Njoya, Lynette Hillabolt, Tom Pohl, and Mr. Billings.

Called to Order 7:05 pm [Tracy Walker]

Introductions

Old Business-Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes – September 2017

a. No adjustments

1. Motions made to approve: 1st – Carol Krois S, 2nd – Tom Pohl
2. Unanimous approval

New Business

2. Treasure Report – Alex Nelissen

- a. Due to unforeseen circumstances, detailed information was unavailable.
- b. Balance as of September 30, 2017: **\$12,790.10**

3. Principal Report – Mr. Chris Billings

- a. Mr. Billings described himself as meaningful and honest.
- b. Purchases from current fundraising (Duct Tape & Magazine Sales)
 - i. Moving toward 21st Century Education (more details to follow)
 1. Type of furniture
 2. Purchase for each community
 3. Collaborative, communicate, problem solve
 4. Use for organization and able to move quickly and quietly from working as a team to working individually.
 5. Not an end, but a beginning of improvements
 - ii. Met with Teachers, Student Leaders and Culture & Climate Committee for their opinions.
 1. Found ideas Mr. Billings had were different from students
 - a. Write on surface
 - b. Stand up desks
 - c. Desire for each classroom to have these improvements but with the budget, not feasible. Need to focus on community improvements.
 - iii. Overall – direct impact on learning
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- c. 21st Century Learning
 - i. Vision – how does this look?
 1. “Authentic Learning” vs. Project Based Learning
 2. Students want to show off projects
 3. Start with questions instead of content
 4. Instead of proposing to “write a composition” find a question to be asked and write about that [authentic the question and problem]
 - d. Attended Conference in Atlanta
 - i. Problems need to mean something
 - ii. Digital Citizenship

- iii. How effective are we teaching students?
- iv. How can we create a feeling of welcome to non-English speaking families?
- v. Putting students in charge
- vi. USE of learning
- vii. Looking forward to next few years in hopes that shift will allow students to become excited about learning
- viii. BUT – still must know basics
 - 1. HOW TO WRITE,
 - 2. HOW TO READ,
 - 3. AND KNOW SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES.
- e. Huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported Summit during the Hacker Crisis
 - i. Mr. Billings was at the Atlanta Conference but in constant contact during his absence
 - ii. Security taken seriously!
 - 1. Exterior doors are not open during the day
 - 2. Office staff changed passwords
 - 3. Unfortunately, due to today's world, never completely safe from hackers.
 - 4. Closely work with police department during and after crisis.
 - iii. Staff was upset that this occurred in the Johnston District
 - 1. Meals, wishes, notes, emails were well received in support of staff
- f. * Question * – Is there vetted security of 3rd party vendors?
 - i. Answer – yes. There will be inconveniences but also working with FBI to contain further incidents.
 - ii. No invasion of Infinite Campus
 - iii. People working on this type of issue has expanded dramatically
 - iv. Not too much information will be released so others involved in type of illicit activity don't know too much.
 - v. Overall – Johnston showed its best side and brought Community together!
- g. Pre-Thank you for the upcoming Fall Conference Meal

4. **President's Report** – Tracy Walker

- a. October is Principal Appreciation Month
 - i. To Mr. Billings – we Thank You and Appreciate your time and effort!
 - ii. Great to see visibility with students
 - iii. Day after Hacker incident – past principals Joy Weibers and Laura Kacer were here to welcome students in Mr. Billings absence.
 - 1. Thanks to Karmen Gano who supplied cupcakes from Scratch for teachers & staff.
 - 2. Thanks to Chelsey Tanke who took food to district office and police station.
 - a. Thanks to Price Chopper who donated the food.
- b. Essie Mally organized tumblers for teachers and staff birthday's this year
 - i. \$3 each from Discount Mugs and will be filled with candy.
- c. If you are a PTO member but not receiving emails with agenda and minutes, please contact PTO! Trying to keep up with membership thru Facebook and direct contact with Summit office staff.
- d. Next meeting, November 7
 - i. This will be a Teacher Grant Meeting – as of this meeting, there are 8 requests.
 - ii. Karmen will be in charge as Tracy will be out-of-town.
- e. **For 2018-2019 board will need a Co-president and Treasurer**

1. Both Tracy and Karmen will no longer have children at Summit.

- ii. Summit PTO organized with two co-presidents
 - 1. Great way to organize time and effort
 - 2. * Question * - How long have you been co-president?
 - a. Answers
 - i. Tracy – 3 years at Summit
 - ii. Karmen – 1st year at Summit but also held position of Secretary at Beaver Creek Elementary for 2 years
 - 3. Lose touch with school/district once in 6th and 7th so PTO a great way to keep updated.
- f. Summit Strong – Tracy Walker
 - i. T-shirts and sweatshirts
 - ii. “JH Strong” logo was out a couple of years ago so after hacker incident, contacted district and they approved use for Broken Arrow to use it.
 - iii. Funds collected will be equally distributed among all the schools and given back to the community as each school sees fit.
 - iv. School board member, Matt Stahr, worked with Johnston PTOs and Johnston organizations to pay for shirts to be given to ALL teachers and staff within the Johnston School District (including PTO, those contacted were JH Band, JH Vocal, and Shazam organizations as well as local businesses)
 - 1. All one style with list of last names on back.
 - v. Working with Mr. Stahr to have a Johnston Strong Pride Day.
 - vi. Sales closed today at 12pm
 - 1. But since then, the site has reopened and will close on October 27 at 10am.
 - vii. **Motion** made to give \$300 to Matt Stahr from the \$5800 Spiritware profits in order to fund the Johnston Strong Staff shirts
 - 1. Motion made to approve: 1st –Chelsey Tanke, 2nd – Carol Krois
 - i. Unanimous approval
- g. Generation Pay It Forward
 - i. Scott Syroka is a past student who now lives in San Francisco created a website and GoFund Me page for Johnston Graduates give back to the community.
 - ii. <https://www.generationpayitforward.com/>
 - iii. Goal - \$21,000
 - iv. Helping to fund a Friday Friends program for Summit Students
 - 1. At Elementary Level, Friday Friends provides 16 items over the weekend to help students with limited access to food
 - 2. Not a program like this once out of Elementary but still need to help 6th and 7th grade students.
 - v. Developed alongside Johnston Partnership
 - vi. On October 8, 2017 local TV, channel 5, presented “Johnston Grads raising money to feed students in hometown”
 - vii. **Motion** made to take the Summit profits from Johnston Strong program and donate to Generation Pay It Forward
 - 1. Motions made to approve: 1st – Carol Krois S, 2nd – Karmen Gano
 - i. Unanimous approval
- h. Reminder that Johnston High School does not have an official PTO, but any funds raised for PTO go toward meals to support the teachers and staff.
- i. Magazine Sales Fundraiser – Tracy Walker

- i. Magazine Sales
 - 1. Made total of \$36,401.16
 - 2. Cash \$8,050.00
 - 3. Last year only \$24, 007.75 [cash \$319]
 - a. Cash – Keep 100% from PayPal or those who wrote checks directly to Summit PTO
 - b. If paid through GAO (Great American Opportunities) or on GAO website, they keep 20%
 - i. Remove that option next year
 - 4. Received first check for \$6,000
 - a. Money will take time to come in – we receive our portion when GAO does so delay from “bill me later” options.
 - 5. PTO should receive about \$15-16,000 – we had budgeted \$11,000 so great to see extra funds!
 - 6. Wednesday, November 8 is the Mega Party!
 - a. Need volunteers
 - b. Will be split into 2 groups – each get to spend an hour at party.
 - c. Kona Ice Truck
 - d. Coded wrist bands so know who gets to do what.
 - 7. Thanks to Summit office staff for helping to check names
 - 8. Thanks to Mr. Blackburn for handing out prizes
 - 9. Thanks to parents for donations of Gatorade, Cheez-it’s, gift cards
 - 10. Thanks for pizza!
 - ii. Comments from PTO members
 - 1. 1-day prize deadline great! Did not drag on and one-day prize table made process much smoother.
 - 2. In the future, ask for help earlier? There was a mix-up of messages and reminder came with daily emails not separate.
 - 3. Online orders came very quickly.
- j. With new PTO co-presidents next year, opportunity to do something new
 - i. Many schools moving to “Unfundraisers”
 - ii. Discussion over Magazine sales
 - 1. Current trend was Magazine Sales were going down, but this year went up.
 - a. Will manpower be an issue in the future?
 - b. Will neighbors be willing to donate cash (i.e. Unfundraiser) instead of buying online?
 - c. Did the increased participation in students result from change in prizes?
- k. Fundraisers – Chelsey Tanke
 - i. Spiritwear
 - 1. Success!
 - 2. In the future, will ship direct and avoid Summit PTO as middleman
 - a. Chelsey will talk to Broken Arrow and move forward with this concept.
 - 3. \$5823.88 profit
 - 4. We were going to do another round for the holidays but with JH Strong wear, will reconsider.
 - ii. Duct Tape Challenge

1. Raise less each year but fun to involve students and teachers outside of classroom.
 2. Mr. Billings did a great job during the event – fight songs, cheers!
 3. Profit, \$709.04
 - iii. Information from Summit
 1. Summit Daily Announcements! Look for PTO information on these.
 2. Digital Backpack – Community activities
 3. Limiting amount of paper trails
 - iv. Comment made about difference in conference schedule when get into JMS – no organized meeting, all teachers are in the gym and you will need to locate a teacher and stand in line.
- I. Committee Report
- i. Community Day – Chelsey Tanke
 1. Past two years Summit worked with Meals from the Heartland
 - a. Students package meals to send to countries in need of food.
 2. Coin drive to raise funds in order to pay for number of meals packaged.
 3. Sheri Walling, P.E. teachers, very involved with this
 4. Would be nice to give back to community but Johnston Partnership does not take the rice or Mac N Cheese meals packaged by Meals from Heartland.
 5. ½ the money needed provided with grants from Meals from the Heartland.
 6. Previously the students spent a day listening to non-profit speakers but wanted a more hands-on experience for students.
 7. Any other suggestions?
 8. Right now, looking at April 5 unless other options are presented.
 - ii. Conference Meals – Tracy Walker
 1. SignUp Genius went up today and is almost filled (all items needed accounted for)
 2. Still need help with set-up and food prep/serve
 3. Texas Roadhouse donates food
 4. Ask PTO members for donations of desserts and tableware
 5. Denise Ostrander and Tammy Dial are in Fall Conference Meal Coordinators.
 - iii. Book Fair – Tracy Walker
 1. SignUP Genius about ½ filled
 2. Silvercord Signup filled almost immediately!
 3. Wild West theme
 4. Proceeds go to Language Arts Teachers (last year about \$200 each)
 5. Flyers should come home (one of few paper flyers handed out)
 6. Location is Summit Media Center
 7. Limited daytime hours – most purchase in evenings anyways.

New Business

5. Bully Awareness Month – Lynette Hillabolt
 - a. DoJo Karate will come into schools, would be possible to come into Summit
 - i. DoJo has goal to talk to a certain number of kids
 - ii. May not fit into curriculum (discuss with P.E. teachers?)
 - iii. District strict about outside companies coming into schools

1. Nothing “for profit”
- iv. Perhaps discuss with Mr.Billings and/or integrate into Red Ribbon Week
- v. Work with Climate Committee?

Next meeting, Tuesday November 7, 2017

Teacher Grant discussion

Motion to Adjourn at 8:18 PM.

- a. Motion to adjourn: 1st –Carol Krois; 2nd – Heather McMulin
 - a. Unanimous Approval.