

Summit Middle School Minutes, Johnston IA

November 7, 2017

Attendees: Karmen Gano, Liz Meeley, Essie Mally, Denice Ostrander, Lynnette Hillabolt, Suzanne Downs, Kevin Blackburn, and Chris Billings.

Called to Order 7:02 pm [Karmen Gano]

Introductions

Old Business-Minutes

1. **Approval of Minutes – November 2017**

1. Motions made to approve: 1st – Denise Ostrander, 2nd – Essie Mally
2. Unanimous approval

New Business

2. **Treasure Report** – Karmen Gano

- a. Balance as of **November 30, 2017: \$34,794.43**

3. **Principal Report** – Mr. Chris Billings

- a. Forthcoming PTO Check
 - i. 21st Century Furniture
 1. Students excited!
 2. 15 Student Leaders involved to help plan design in common area.
 - a. Looked at Websites for “cutting edge” design
 - b. Split into 6 groups then came together with maps and collaborated
 - c. Didn’t just want it to “look cool” but to be functional
 - d. Today (Dec 5), smaller groups met with vendors
 - i. Had a budget and learned how to use with vendors
 - ii. Very “Gung Ho” and 90% of the students talked
 - iii. Wanted discounts
 - iv. Great process!
 - e. Decided to create a “big reveal” for the other student population
 - f. Special note – there was a special needs student going through a hard time who was invited to join the committee and became part of the group. Participated and appreciated by peers.
- b. Question: Is there current conversation about changing start time for the Johnston School District?
 - i. Administration and school board looked at the survey and about 16 articles researched
 - ii. Overall – strong opinions on both sides but serious support to switch times between Elementary and Middle School/High School.
 - iii. Look to Johnston Board Meeting agendas for future discussion
- c. Calendar for 2018-2019
 - i. Instead of sending teachers out for continued education, trying to bring speakers in but need more substitutes to help cover class time.
 - ii. Will keep Wednesday as early out.

4. **President’s Report** – Karmen Gano “November was a busy month!”

- a. Fall Grants
 - i. Budget was \$5,000 but grants requested amounted to \$25,000
 - ii. Overall consideration looked at number of students who benefit and if other grants or means of payment are available – “many students over many years”
 - iii. Following grants were approved
 - 1. Approved: Alex Lancaster, \$338.47 – Ipad stands for Building Technology Goal
 - 2. Approved: Jenna Logan, \$2,367.06 – provide classroom set of Iowa Teen Choice Award books for each Language Arts Teacher, one for Mrs. Stockton, plus two sets of Iowa Teen and two sets of Iowa Children for the Media Center (Mrs. Tuttle).
 - 3. Approved: Yolanda Christensen, \$400.00 – PBIS rewards
 - 4. Partial Funding: Lacy Willenborg, \$400.00 (of \$600 requested) – Easels to display Project Based Learning in Language Arts
 - 5. Partial Funding: Meagan Belieu, [requested] \$8,448.65.
 - a. Demonstration tables (\$3,317.85), worktables (\$1,635.00), & Z stools (\$3,495.80)
 - b. This funding request is for Family Consumer Science which has limited ability for grants – it was decided that when approved grants are given out, PTO will work with M. Belieu to purchase the items she has the greatest need for.
- b. JH Strong
 - i. Share all profit to all schools
 - ii. ~\$1,000 to each school for PTO
 - iii. The High School does not have a PTO, so money marked as PTO will go directly to the school for conference meals.
 - 1. Note: since this meeting there has been discussion within the district to create a PTO at the High School.
 - iv. Summit donated their profit to Generation Pay it Forward
 - 1. <https://www.generationpayitforward.com/>
- c. Mr. Billings asked for PTO help with funds
 - i. Project Based Learning groups are creating proposals for a party at a Care Facility and will give presentation about their idea.
 - ii. A parent has offered to actually fund the winning party idea so this can actually happen
 - iii. Could the parent make a grant to PTO with the funds and PTO does the actual payment?
 - iv. PTO says “yes” and many Thanks to the giving parent!
- d. Special Congratulations to Summit Middle School for being a National Blue Ribbon Nominee!
 - i. Elite, honor based – 3 Iowa Schools nominated by the Iowa Department of Education.
 - ii. Land in top 15% in nation looking at test scores and level of diversity (closing the gaps) looking from last year's scores to this years.
 - iii. A group will travel to Washington DC
- e. Committee Reports
 - i. Magazine Sales
 - 1. Great Success – raised \$16,847.24!!
 - a. Last year about \$12,000
 - 2. 2nd year of transition period from Summit sponsor to PTO Sponsor

3. Chad from GAO has been paid so any money we receive from now is profit
4. Work to smooth out issues from this year to improve next year.
- ii. Fall Scholastic Book Fair
 1. Great volunteers
 2. Suggestion that on the last day, open for couple hours in the morning to catch any students that were not able to attend beforehand.
 3. Each Language Arts Teacher received \$125 to use the Scholastic Warehouse Sale in December
 4. Sales profit, \$5,100.87
- iii. Spirit Wear Fall 2017 is now closed
 1. Sales at Conferences went well
 2. Extra PE clothes available
 3. 7 Coffee cups available
 4. Great idea to add \$1 for shipping direct to home
 - a. Questions went directly to Broken Arrow and Summit PTO no longer the middle man.
- iv. Fall Conference Meal
 1. Went well
 2. Enough food but tight on meat. Suggest all BBQ pork instead of partially beef tips.
- v. Birthday mugs
 1. 3 left
 2. Need donation for candy – contact Tracy Walker or Essie Mally
- f. **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. Lose touch with school/district once in 6th and 7th, Summit PTO a great way to keep updated and informed.

New Business

5. Essie Mally
 - a. Brought to this meeting the idea of student Team Building over the summer for incoming 6th grade Summit students.
 - i. Try to reduce the feeling of disconnect when moving from a school of 100+ students per grade to 500+ per grade
 - ii. Hard to be mean to someone you already met and worked with
 - iii. Urbandale Middle School already has a program in place
 - b. Last year there was talk about all schools moving to district wide Field Celebration thus eliminating individual school 5th grade celebrations (right now each Elementary does something different)
 - i. Keep activities silly and fun so all students can enjoy
 - c. Challenge is students who need to interact may not be able to participate just before school starts
 - d. Summit does have couple of introductions to the school during the 5th grade year but these are done by individual elementary schools not at the district level
 - i. Each 5th grade tours the building in the spring and able to swim in the pool

- ii. Odyssey group puts on a presentation about Summit that is created by Summit Students
- e. There is also the SAS program during the summer with various camps/activities for 6th and 7th grade
 - i. Through Community Education
- 6. Mr. Billings view for the future
 - a. Would like to see more clubs available to students at Summit
 - b. Putting on a Musical or Dramatic production but without asking for a fee (i.e. free to all who want to join)
 - c. Lots of support from the PTO members attending!
- 7. Noted that 7th grade athletics are no longer available through the school itself but through Community Education
 - a. Numbers have declined – much stronger when available through the school
 - b. Through Community Education required to pay a fee vs. Summit based, no fee
 - c. **Connection presents opportunities and Johnston School District should be good at presenting opportunities.**
- 8. Possible start of a Robotics Club this spring.

Next meeting, Monday, January 8, 2018 * note day change due to Winter break

Motion to Adjourn at 7.59 PM.

- a. Motion to adjourn: 1st –Denise Ostrander; 2nd – Susan Downs
 - a. Unanimous Approval.