

Audubon PTO Monthly Meeting: November Minutes

Date: November 6, 2023 **Time:** 6:00 pm

Location: @ School Library; 2020 W Carlisle Ave, Spokane, WA 99205

Meeting Started: 6:05

In Attendance: 9

In person: Kristene Gillmer, Anna Lauritzen, Dave Musser, Fred Cousins (Emmanuel Pres. Church), Keira

Online: Dani DeJaegher, Michael Cruite, Tonya Bingley, Michelle Zepeda

MINUTES

Motion to Approve October 2023 Minutes: K. Gillmer

Seconded to Approve October 2023 Minutes: D. Musser

Minutes Pass Unanimously

Principal's Report (Kristene Gillmer): Audubon has submitted their School Improvement Plan (SIP), which was shared with PTO last month. Principal Gillmer met with the school leadership team and made only a few adjustments. They removed strategies that have already been implemented along with those that are no longer relevant. Also added more of the Social Emotional Learning strategies that the school has in place (eg. Zones of Regulation, Kelso's choices). The final SIP will be approved by SPS School board in an upcoming Nov or Dec meeting.

Holiday times are approaching and the school and teachers have some fun activities coming up. There will be a Kindergarten winter Concert, door decorating. Last year there was a reindeer run, not sure if that will be repeated again this winter. There is an extra week between Thanksgiving and Winter break (4 weeks instead of the usual 3) so hopefully there will be time for all the things.

Dani asked what the relationship is between the different committees and the PTO currently and in the future. Principal Gillmer clarified that there is hope for more overlap in the future, the right now the priority is giving folks a place to get involved in the school. Currently there are about 15 committees (eg. Family Engagement, Assemblies, Social, Leadership, PBIS). There are efforts being made to find overlap and understand the best way to efficiently work together- with the hope of encouraging participation and equally distributing the work. A reminder of the PTO mission, shared by Michelle: *Audubon Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a group of parents/guardians, teachers and staff who help support our school and students. The Mission of the Audubon PTO is to act as a liaison between the community and Audubon Elementary School while establishing, promoting, and supporting programs and events that enhance students' education and experience. We are committed to practicing greatness by building connections.*

Michael asked about a question that arose in the last Family Engagement meeting. People were curious about the non-profit status because there is a need for clarity around how donations can be raised or collected. Dave and Principal Gillmer confirmed that the PTO would be the correct place to donate because of the charitable status. The PTO is in the process of reinstating the non-profit status so that other committees can support fundraising opportunities. Families can still donate while this process is waiting on confirmation- but it is not yet a tax-write-off. PTO can and will still collect the money for now.

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President's Report:

Trunk or Treat was a huge success. Almost 400 people were in attendance. It was a great outcome for a collaborative event. The Hot Cocoa station was a hit. Next year PTO will need to budget more for hot cocoa supplies.

Thank you to Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. They collected socks and Emergency clothing at a Soup Luncheon. It was a lovely event. Thank you, Fred!

Reminder about enrolling in the BOXTOPS program. It is great and easy way to earn money for Audubon. You can send the code to grandparents, etc so they can also participate. Download the app and get started. So far Audubon has earned \$72.70

Treasurers Report:

The turnout for the Brewery Fundraiser was fantastic. The event brought in \$1430. The total account balance before the fundraiser deposit is \$12,297.93.

Action Items:

Dave Musser motioned to approve multiple reimbursements and expenses: Reimburse costs of \$50.72 for popcorn kernels, cover the costs (appx \$300-\$400) for licorice, soda and water for the Family Movie Night, and to reimburse the 1st and 2nd grade teacher for their book costs associated with their Holiday "staycation" field trip- \$150.

K. Gillmer seconded

Motion passed unanimously

Note: Anna will be purchasing the snacks for the Family Movie Night.

Discussion Items:

Representation is needed for the PTO table at Family event 11/16 from 4:00-6:00. Table will have boxtop info, goodies, PTO info: Latasha and Anna will check on table if others aren't available for the night. Dave will check his calendar and get back soon. Dani is unavailable that evening.

Anna asked Michelle if the hope is to build interest among staff members for volunteer needs at the event or if support could it be from members of the community? Michelle said staff sign-ups have been slow. Michelle and Kristene will commit to reaching out to staff to entice them to participate. Could also potentially reach out to other Parent groups.

Event Reminders

Invite your veterans to the VA assembly; parents are invited to come and participate. Last year had 20 visitors. If we could have 20-40 visitors this year, that would be cool. 4th graders (about 20) will be singing at the assembly.

Family Movie Night with a Resource Fair- lots of information available for families

Next PTO meeting is December 6th at 6pm.

Comments:

Kristene: February we will be having our bond/levee that will be coming out to the community. Shortly we will be getting information- Don't forget to vote!