

Mark Twain Elementary PTA  
December 08, 2015  
6:30 pm  
Mark Twain Library

Vice President Jennifer Swisher called the meeting to order at 6:31 .

In attendance were 14 people: Krystal Bonjour, Melinda Larson, Jenny Woomert, Heather Bagby, Caroline Olson, Dawnn Brooks, Beth Douglas, Shannon Harmon, Adam Cook, Merriditch VanDerGinst, Jennie Blackman, Jennifer Swisher, Theron Schutte, and Jeremy Bloyd.

Mrs. Olson- Principal's Report.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing will be introduced next year pending funding. These assessments will be for math and reading.

3rd Grade Retention Law goes into effect for the 2016-2017 school year. The FAST assessments are used to see if students are proficient in literacy at the Kindergarten-3rd grade levels. Progress monitoring for students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in reading. There will also be a summer school program for any students needing help. They will be required to complete 70 hours of reading in summer school in order to move on. This is a program in addition to the 21st Century Learning Program. Retention of any student who is not proficient in reading by the end of 3rd grade, did not attend the summer reading program, and does not qualify for a good cause exemption from the retention requirement.

Miss Chelsey is an Americorps Literacy Tutor. She works 35/40 hours a week working with students 1 on 1 for 20 minutes at a time in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade who need help with reading.

The School District is looking for Americorp Literacy Tutors which is a 7 month position averaging 35 hours a week. Benefits include a living allowance and an education award that can be applied towards student loans or future education. Information or to apply can be found on the district website.

Winter Sing is on Friday December 18 starting at 9:30 am

Winter parties will be held Tuesday December 22 at 1:30 with an early dismissal at 2:10 pm.

January 21 from 6-8:30pm there will be a Facility Committee Meeting to see how the district buildings can be improved. It is currently in the organizational phase. There will be 2-3 community meetings in the future on what improvements are needed in the district. 2-3 Million dollars is needed to improve buildings and playgrounds. The meetings will discuss the best interest in either improvements to current buildings or possible consolidation of schools in a new facility.

Krystal Bonjour- Secretary Report.  
Approval of November minutes.

Adam Cook-Treasurer Report.  
Deposits and Income from Schnucks escrow program \$57.35, Yankee candle and Directories \$166.95. Printing cost of \$140.21 for the directories.

Shannon Harmon and Beth Douglas-Mark Twain Pilot Program Bus Behavior.  
Peaceful School Bus Program to be introduced in January.  
The *Peaceful School Bus Program* is a whole-school program that's designed to decrease inappropriate behavior on buses while creating a climate of respect and cooperation. Teachers, administrators, parents, and students take part in school bus route group meetings. At these meetings the students

- Take part in team-building exercises
- Develop mentoring relationships by pairing older students with younger students on the bus
- Talk about bullying - and what behavior is and is not acceptable
- Get to personally know their driver, who is present at the meetings

There will be 3 meetings a year lasting 45 minutes in the morning when buses arrive for students, bus drivers, parents, and committee. The goal is to implement this program in all schools in the future.

Adam Cook- Treasurer Election and Membership Chairman Position.

Merridith VanDerGinst was voted in as the new treasurer with the term ending in 2017.

Looking to add a Membership Chairman who will be in charge of promoting the PTA and trying to get more members. We need at least 25 members to have a PTA and we currently have 42.

New Business-

Movie Night- December 11- Featuring "Inside Out"- PTA will have chips, candy bars, popcorn and water for concessions.

Winter Sing December 18- PTA will provide coffee, Flyers sent home asking for donations of treats to be served.

Fun Fest Committee- First meeting will be January 4th 6:30pm more details to follow. There was 5-7 people interested in helping organize the fun fest. The committee will hold monthly meetings.

The next PTA meeting will be held on January 12, 2016 at 6:30pm in the library.

Jen Swisher adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm  
Prepared by: Krystal Bonjour- Secretary