

Elms Elementary School PTN

General Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

1. Call to Order: Introductions and Welcomes- Stephanie Falzarano called to order, next night meeting is in January, 15th at 6:30pm. Introduction of Board Members-Stephanie Falzarano, Julie Nyman, Danielle MacKrell, Lorena Macalincag, Ashley Acevedo, Nikki Wiese, Keri Ann Scott, Jennifer Herkert and Carrie Bassano.
2. Reports:
 - Treasurer-presented by Nikki Wiese. General Account-\$33,854.68, Gaming Account \$67,739.42 Amounts will be changing with payments going out for grants, paid for through Gaming Account. Fundraiser money will also be coming in.
 - Corresponding Secretary-presented by Jennifer Herkert- November newsletter out on table, will be going home with kids tomorrow. Highlights are Trunk or Treat winners and Pumpkin decorating contest winners.
 - Principal-presented by Mr. Burgos. Lots to celebrate.
 - i. Pumpkin contest-everyone upped their game, hard to pick winners. Trunk or Treat great success. Thanks for coming out, supporting and organizing.
 - ii. Conferences were good, feedback was positive.
 - iii. IXL Challenge kicked off by Ms. Pagano-Hein.
 - iv. Clubs starting. Ms. Montanaro initiated Pen Pal club, different grades and classes send letters. OT & PT facilitating Christmas cards to Veterans. Buddy and Peer Buddy programs, older working with younger, working with MD classes. Intramural basketball starting in December.
 - v. 1st grade we READ, December 10, 11, 12th.
 - vi. December 9th half day for students, Staff In-service-support professional development for new curriculum.
 - vii. Spelling Bee coming up- 4th & 5th participate.
 - viii. Ms. Brenner started planning Career Day to be held in January. 3rd annual, huge success past couple years.
 - ix. Was invited to share some of our green initiative on a virtual panel with Monmouth University, very proud to represent, asked about challenges and costs, etc. Overall environmental sustainability is close to his heart, want to pass along to kids, educate them.
 - x. Update on Strategic Planning Committee on Redistricting/Redistributing. Look at ways we can re-structure the district in order to address the budget issues our district is facing. Everything on the table as far as options, what is most productive, economically feasible. Plan to present at Board Meeting on January 22nd. Most likely bring options to BOE in January and they will be the ones voting on and making final decisions. Superintendent is leading the charge on the committee. Does feel like this district does care about people, and they will put student needs first. Tough decisions to make, will impact families and schedules. At each grade level, there are impacts to transportation. Encouraged to contact if

there are questions or concerns, have suggestions, etc. Plan is for new plan to implemented for 2025-2026. Options presented at January Board of Education meeting, voting soon after.

- Teacher Liaison-none

3. Voting Items:

- October Meeting Minutes-Motion by Danielle MacKrell, 2nd by Janine Figueroa, all in favor, no opposed, none abstained.

4. PTN Updates/Committee Reports

- Trunk or Treat Recap-presented by KeriAnn Scott-overall very well. Couple of kids that caused ruckus, but not our kids at school. Maybe shortening to an hour for future.
- Book Fair Recap-presented by Carrie Bassano. Successful, increased sales over last year, initiatives to draw people in during Trunk or Treat successful. Great to have the help of the FBLA, as well as older siblings of current students who helped out. Looking forward to next.
- Clothing Drive 11/16-start dropping of Friday 6pm, up until 11am Saturday. Clothes, handbags, toys, no towels or linens. They weigh and we get money back based on weight.
- Current Fundraisers: Grinch Grams delivered 12/19-Sara Piazza will be wearing Grinch costume and delivering; Holiday Grams-go out 12/20, Pie Pickup 11/26-afternoon.
- Membership Drive: Join by Nov 27th to be entered into a drawing to win a gift card. Classes with 100% Membership will win a cookie party! Thank you for all the generous donations so far.- "If you give a Teacher a Cookie" theme. Drawing will be December 2nd for Amazon gift card.
- Holiday Shop:12/2-12/6. Shop during school hours. Prices- \$0.50 to \$13. Kids get very excited, flyers will be going home that you can mark who to buy for, how much money can spend on each. Helps us keep them on track. Volunteers Sign up sheet going out in newsletter.
- Winterfest-12/6, rain date 12/13. 6-8pm. Outside-2 food trucks and bake sale. Will be selling smores as new item. Wholly Bowls & Frankie Fed's. Train, Santa's Toy Shop, snow machine, games, Santa. New train guy this year.
- Gertrude Hawk-orders have been placed, should be delivered 1st week of December, sent home shortly after.
- Volunteers Needed: Book Fair Co-Chair, Carnival Co-Chair, Plant Sale Co-Chair, Holiday Shop Shadow

5. Open Floor-Jennifer Herkert-works at Board office, but want to second that kids come first during this re-districting/re-distributing process. They are looking at what they are going to do next year, and also in years to come.

6. Adjournment-Next meeting is Dec. 18th at 9:30am. Motion by Nikki Wiese, 2nd by Nicole Couceiro