

Merrill PTA Meeting Minutes Monday March 28, 2022

Attendance:

Kathryn P.	Channon T.	Christy S.	Kate E. (Zoom)
Sarah Witt.	Megan H.	Simone F. (Zoom)	Reilly R. (Zoom)
Missy A. (Zoom)	Kate M	Kristen E. (Zoom)	Ka'Meka L.
Vivian B.	Carrie K.	Sarah A. (Zoom)	Jen C. (Zoom)

Principal's Update - Mrs. Panek

- Complete current updates found on Merrill Minutes.
- Merrill Winter Olympics was a success.
- Gratefulness voiced by teachers for PTA sponsored Teacher Appreciation activities.
- Semi-post pandemic- kids getting settled in routines but it is understood that there is still concern for their social and emotional needs.
- For the mandatory Iowa Skills Tests the students voted to do all testing during one day with breaks and snacks. Each grade will have a different testing day.
- Planning for this year finishing up and starting on next year. Since reduced budget some staff had to be dropped. Less teachers for each subject so teachers will now have to teach their subject to 2 grade levels.
- School enrollment is down.
- Due to resignations there is an opening for Special Education and Health/PE teacher. There is a sub currently for Health/PE
- Sisters for Success sponsoring a school dance to be held on April 15th from 3:30pm-4:45pm. Tickets will be sold during the week of the dance. All students in good standing will be able to attend.

Treasurer's Report

Missy Anderson provided a detailed profit and loss statement for the funds in the PTA treasury. Summary: Statement date Jan. 1, 2022-March 29, 2022. Opening balance-\$15,291.30 Retained earnings-\$1,976.41
Net income-\$798.79 Total equity-\$18,066.50

Merrill Library

Librarian Carrie Kent presented an idea to replace the Scholastic Book fundraisers that have been held in previous years. This new fundraiser will reach a broader audience as can be shared on Facebook by teachers and families and placed on Merrill's various social outreach platforms. The program is called "Follett Titlewish". It is a free fundraising program designed for PreK-12th grades. Mrs Kent has a running list of books that she, teachers and students would like to add to the library. More diverse books are wanted. There are also some worn out or damaged books that need to be replaced. Contributors can be made using Follett and when the wanted books are ordered they will come already with a bar code and lamination. With Follett the books are shelf ready. This is a district approved library vendor. 100% of donations go to the school with Follett matching 10%. The PTA agreed that this would be a fundraiser for the school to support. April is National School Library month.

Bullying Concerns, Climate, Culture, Safety

There was a video presentation showing the statistics of how many referrals given out during this school year compared to last year. The purpose of referrals is to collect information.

There are safety concerns in the bathroom. Various things are being tried to give student's their privacy in the bathroom but still keeping them safe.

Security cameras have been requested for the gym.

There is a multi-tiered system of support for the students. All students get support but some students need extra support.

New Business

- There is no school April 22nd-April 25th
- PTA agreed to purchase 6 new positive signs to put on walls around the school. Price approximately \$1,000.
- Mustang Minutes may move from lunchtime to the end of the day.
- The school sponsored 8th grade celebration will be held during the school day on June 2nd. If evening celebration is wanted by parents it was suggested that PTA could sponsor with parent volunteers.
- Coach apparel: the PTA will help with t-shirts that are given out to staff for athletic events.

Discussion: Questions asked why masks still given out in the school and mask signs still posted when masks are not mandatory anymore. Mrs. Panek answered that she will check on if signs should be removed; and masks will still be offered to students since some still want them. There is no cost to the school for the masks since they were donated.

Housekeeping

Merrill PTA Dates for the 2021-2022 school year April 18th, May 16th

Merrill PTA Board 2021-2022

- President: Sarah Witt
- Treasurer: Missy Anderson
- Secretary: Vivian Bryson

Merrill PTA Committee Members 2021-2022

Communications: Kristen Erickson/Jessi Goodsell

Membership & Community Relations: Jessi Goodsell

Fundraising: TBD

Apparel: Megan Hollinger

Merrill Matters: TBD

Helping Hands: Tracy Beck/Sarah Osterhaus Melton/Sarah Voss

Teacher Appreciation: Katie Carlson/Shawna Boeding

Box Tops: TBD

All Merrill PTA meetings are open to families and community members interested in helping Merrill Middle School

Contact Sarah Witt, PTA President, at switt1509@gmail.com

Find more information at <https://merrillpta.wordpress.com/including> PTA meeting archives

Contact with us at <https://www.facebook.com/merrillpta/>

Visit [Mrs. Panek's "Merrill Minute" newsletter archive](#)

