Spirit Lake Elementary PIE

May 9, 2022

Spirit Lake Elementary School

Meeting called to order by PIE President Nicole Evans at 12:01p

Board members present: Nicole Evans, Greta Gruys, Kelly Mueting, Jessica Garvin, Jamie Hunter, Kelli Kruger, Jessica Garvin, Kate Mendenhall

Guests present: Mr. Huebner, Jorden Coon, Liz Steiner, Lucas Doxtad

Purpose Statement: PIE provides the students of the Spirit Lake Elementary School with activities and opportunities that support and extend their education above and beyond the classroom.

Principal Report

Mr. Huebner provided report.

10 days left in the school year for students! It has been a wonderful school year and many have remarked that this year seems to have gone by very quickly. Recent Spring Field trips have went well and enjoyed by all (Kindergarten to Sioux Falls Zoo; 1st grade Passports to Reading program to Library, Lakeside Laboratory and Nature Center; 2nd graders to Washington Pavilion Science Center in Sioux Falls; 3rd grade Community Field Trip to Police Station, Courthouse and Bike Rodeo; 4th grade to Lewis & Clark Museum in Sioux City). Spring Concerts went well- great success! Collaboration with singer/songwriter James Hirsch was an excellent learning experience for the kids and was sponsored by PIE. Kids worked with James Hirsch to write a personalized song about each of their teachers. The annual 4th grade Track & Field Meet was held May 6th and was a great event for the students. Weather was perfect and many of the younger grades were able to walk over and watch the students compete. Spring Testing has been completed and data will be compiled soon. Spirit Lake Elementary is in the process of interviewing and hiring a new 3rd grade teacher (Mrs. Bormann will be leaving kindergarten to be a stay at home parent; Ms. Hassel is now transferring to Kindergarten from 4th grade; Mrs. Laven is transferring to 4th grade from 3rd grade, creating an open position). The Book Vending Machine is currently full and continues to generate great excitement! Will likely need new books at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Review/Approve April Meeting Minutes.

Sent via email and a copy was printed and distributed.

Thank you note from 2nd graders who enjoyed the field trip to the Washington Pavilion shared.

Motion made by Jamie to approve; second Jessica. Ayes all, motion carried.

Review/Approve April Treasurer’s Report

Report printed and distributed. Kelly Mueting, Treasurer, provided updates.

Awaiting bills from the Kindergarten Field Trip and 1st grade Field Trip.

Motion made by Greta to approve; second Jessica. Ayes all, motion carried.

EPI School Supply Boxes

* Back to School supplies put together in a package for students (instead of finding at store) with typically 40% in savings.
* Mr Huebner stated that the sales representative is working to get the fliers to students’ families this next week in Friday Folder. All supply lists have been finalized by Spirit Lake teachers PK-4th grade. Parents will just have to go to the website, put in the code and will be able to order. Costs range from $30-70 per school supply list (varies by grade level).
* Ship to school- 1 week before school starts and PIE Volunteers will deliver to classrooms prior to Intake Conferences.
* Able to order extra boxes in advance through EPI rep and can return whatever is not used by Sept 1st. Minimum order 36 total. PIE would not do it as a fundraiser; would do it as a service to parents/students and families.

BRAWL – 4th grade celebration

* BRAWL (Bike Ride Along West Lake) will be held Friday, May 20
* Mr O’Hagan (PE teacher) is coordinating the event. Joint graduation from Elementary school and bike ride celebration!
* BRAWL Stickers for all riders who complete the course have been ordered and purchased by PIE
* 85 students, 6-8 teachers and staff, and 25 volunteers will be needed
* Snacks – Bananas, granola bars, and bottled water at the 1st stop at Lakeside Laboratory
* Finish Line at First Lutheran Church – lunch provided by PIE of pizza, carrots, and bottled water. Cookies to be donated by Mindy Truong

Outdoor Classroom Updates

* Kelly Mueting, outdoor committee chair, provided updates along with teachers Mrs. Jorden Coon (3rd grade), Mr. Lucas Doxtad (2nd grade) and Ms. Liz Steiner (1st grade) who all serve on the outdoor committee
* “SLES Outdoor Classroom Proposal” packet detailing a wishlist of items prioritized to jumpstart the Outdoor Classroom was shared with Board Members. Packet included description of items, cost, source of where to purchase, and pictures of the items.
* The area designated for the Outdoor Playground is close to the playground, has a trail, visible from the road, and offers some protection from the wind.
* Teachers are very excited about using this space to enhance curriculum in learning more about the plant animal life cycle; animal adaptations; weather units; gardening; composting. Also very excited to have a place to climb and explore.
* Water hook up already established.
* Tree stumps and benches were placed this past weekend (but are moveable). The trees were donated by Emerald Hills Golf Course and were cut down and delivered by 2nd grade teacher Mr. Lucas Doxtad with assistance by Mr. Huebner. There are 22 tree stumps to serve as stools currently, and would like to add 6 more. There are 5 benches currently (can have 8 kids sit on each or 4 adults). There is enough seating currently for 2 classes.
* Community partnerships with Lakeside Laboratory (Ashley Hanson), ISU Extension (Hannah Dibble), and Nature Center (Brianna Kuhlman) have already been established to generate new ideas and work in collaboration with
* Children really enjoy getting outside and having a new space to learn
* Outdoor Classroom Committee is also looking into grants that may be available or business partners to match donations as potential sources of funding for next year
* Goal is to have it ready by Fall 2022 to utilize and enjoy at the start of the school year.
* Motion made for PIE to give $10,000 to jumpstart the Outdoor Playground to fund made by Nicole; Kate Mendenhall, second Kelli Kruger. Ayes all.

PIE Officers

* Nicole Evans, PIE President, offered her resignation as PIE President. She expressed her thanks to the committee and appreciation for all of their support. Nicole has served as the PIE president for 5 years. She wishes to continue as a PIE Board member.
* 2022-23 Officers- Open Position for the PIE Facilitator/President; Kelly Mueting, Treasurer; Greta Gruys, Secretary. Seeking new PIE president for the 2022-23. If interested, please contact Nicole Evans. Term would begin September 2022 and would likely be 2-year term. Plans to discuss at the next meeting in July. Please contact Nicole if you have any questions about this leadership opportunity or would like to serve as the next PIE Board President.

Miscellaneous

* Received email from a parent with regards to the surfacing of the elementary playgrounds. Woodchips hadn’t dried out due to recent rain and requests that the elementary playground switch to a wet pour rubber flooring or possibly turfing. Unfortunately, recent preliminary cost estimates are quite costly currently and beyond the budget of the Elementary PIE Committee. However, will certainly consider and keep in mind in the future.

Motion made by Jessica to adjourn; second Kelli. Ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:01p.

Next meeting- PIE Board Summer Budget Meeting

* TBD. Watch for an email.

This is the last monthly Elementary PIE Meeting of the 2021-22 school year. Next monthly PIE meeting to be held on September 12th at 12:00 at Spirit Lake Elementary.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Gruys, PIE Secretary