

Spirit Lake Elementary PIE
February 13, 2023
Spirit Lake Elementary School

Meeting called to order by PIE President Jamie Hunter at 12:01p

Board members present: Jamie Hunter, Rachel Fandel, Greta Gruys, Kelly Mueting, Kelli Kruger, Dave Matthews, Nicole Evans, Kate Mendenhall

Guests present: Mr. Huebner

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.

Winter Blast was a great success! Kids really enjoyed the non-traditional day of learning and activities. The activities were well-planned, and staff appreciated the \$75 gift cards from PIE to purchase supplies for Winter Blast.

The American Heart Association fundraiser ended last week and was able to raise \$8700 for the organization and a percentage of funds raised will be donated to the Spirit Lake PE program to purchase equipment.

Personnel updates: Two 3rd grade teachers, Mrs Tepfer and Mrs Mitchell, and guidance counselor Mrs. Thompson will all be retiring at the end of this year. Ms. Steiner, 1st grade teacher, has resigned and has chosen to be a stay at home parent. Mrs. Johnson will be transferring from elementary special education to the guidance counselor position and Mrs. Zinnel will be transferring from 1st grade to elementary special education. New hires include Ms. Maddie Vierkant who will serve as a special education teacher and Mrs Peta has also been hired as one of the new 3rd grade teacher. Interviews are currently ongoing for the two 1st grade teacher positions and the other 3rd grade teacher position.

Playground Update: Currently seeking quotes with regards to surfacing. Chris Beck with Beck Excavating in Spirit Lake will be coming to make an assessment about the cost of the removal of equipment in order to pour the updated resurfacing. Another quote will be coming from Larry Rife with AB Creative in Des Moines to make an assessment and quote as well. Once decisions are made with regards to the project, it would go out for bidding to Beck Excavating, AB Creative, and all others interested.

Elementary Spring Conferences will be held Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16. The sign-up will be sent out a week prior (the week of March 7).

Open houses: Preschool Open House will be held March 13 and Kindergarten Open House will be held March 20 K Open House. Sign up for preschool will become available in the next 2 weeks with both all day and half day options available.

Review/Approve January Meeting Minutes.

Sent via email and a copy was printed and distributed.

Motion made by Rachel to approve the Minutes; second Kelli. Ayes all, motion carried.

Review/Approve February Treasurer Report

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

Motion made by Greta; second Rachel. Ayes all, motion carried.

Absolute Science!

- Greta Gruys provided update. Friday, March 3rd “Mega Levitator” show in the SAMI Center. Rachel Fandel will be point of contact
- 2 shows each ~45 minutes and needs ~30 minutes to reset the stage. 2 performances (8:30-9:15 Pre-K-1st grade; 9:45-10:30 2nd-4th grade) with Hands On Discovery Stations to follow from 10:45-2:30 in the Black Box with each class having an assigned time.
- Need PIE volunteers to assist with the 6 hands-on stations in the SAMI Black Box room. 2 shifts; tentatively 10:15-12:30 and 12:15-2:30. Need to have at least 2-3 volunteers at each shift. Sign-up Genius sent to PIE Committee members; please sign up if you are able.
- Payment due day of show- \$1300 for 2 shows and discovery stations
- Website: <https://absolute-science.com/>

STEM Fair

- Greta Gruys provided update. STEM Fair set for Thursday, March 30. This is an optional opportunity for 3rd and 4th grade students.
- STEM Fair Presentations will be 2:30-3:00 Elementary students and staff invited to peruse; 5:30-6:30 Family and Friends invited. 3rd graders in the Elementary Gym and 4th graders in the cafeteria
- PIE purchased 80 tri-fold posterboards in anticipation of the event; Northwest Bank generously donated printing for STEM Fair packets and materials
- Sign-up Genius was sent to PIE Committee members; sign up if you are able!
- Thursday, February 16- Greta will present to 3rd and 4th grade students and handout packets; Tuesday, February 22- Permission slips due; Friday, February 24th- Trifold poster boards sent home with student.

CulturalAll

- Kate Mendenhall provided update. Japanese Taiko drumming performance is set for Thursday, April 27 at 12:00p with the workshops to follow that afternoon for the 4th graders. The location will be the SAMI Center or the Gymnasium. The Okoboji presentation will be held the following morning on Friday, April 28. There is still ongoing discussion whether there will be a community presentation the evening of April 27 at the Pearson Lakes Art Center.
- Okoboji Elementary Pioneers and Spirit Lake Elementary PIE will split the transportation and possible lodging costs for CultureAll .
- Following the performance, the 4 Japanese ambassadors will work with 4th grade students in 4 different workshops on topics to include origami, swordsmanship, tea ceremony, Japanese festival dance with masks, childrens games, calligraphy, and cultural differences. The workshops will be held in the 4th grade classrooms.
- Total Cost: \$1,900 (Okoboji will also pay \$1,900)
- Website: <https://www.cultureall.org/in-the-classroom>

Conference Meals

- Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16
- Rachel Fandel will arrange the meals through Yesterday’s catering again. Will do \$10 sign-ups through Sign-Up Genius along with sign-ups for bars, bottled water, and paper products.

Outdoor Classroom

- There are several items ready to be placed once the snow melts/ground unthaws such as the large chalkboard and other equipment. There was discussion to ask the HS Industrial Tech class build a large storage container however Mr Huebner said there are locked storage shelves in the teacher's lounge for outdoor classroom items to be kept at this time. Need to encourage teachers and staff to utilize the outdoor classroom. Recommendation made by Mr Doxstad to wait and see "what works and what doesn't work" with the outdoor classroom before more items are purchased and changes made.

Vending Machine

- Teachers are still given 2 tokens each month to give as their discretion to 2 students in their classroom to redeem for a book. Mr Huebner still has a large supply of books to refill the Vending Machine with and is not seeking more books to be purchased at this time.

EPA School Supply Program

- The School Supply Lists for 2023-24 will be given to staff to verify and update, and then will be sent to the EPA representative. It will then be sent to student's families hopefully by April for the coming school year and delivered in August.

Electronic Action Items

- 4th grade AR Reward Party – Trip to Horseshoe Bend for tubing up to \$400. Electronically approved by PIE Board members on 1-18-23

Miscellaneous

- Awaiting proceeds from the Red Bags sales from Hy-Vee

Motion made by Rachel to adjourn; second Kelli. Ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:39p

Next monthly PIE meeting to be held Monday, March 13th at 12:00 at Spirit Lake Elementary.

Respectfully submitted,
Greta Gruys, PIE Secretary