

Symmes Elementary PTO General Meeting  
Thursday, February 8, 2018

Call to Order/Introductions

Camilla Millar

Approval of January 11, 2018 meeting minutes

Leigh Grause

- *Motion to approve, minutes approved.*

Teacher Representative Report

Cathy Jones

- *Thank yous*
  - o *Cultural Night – this was a festive fun evening for everyone. Special thanks to Laura Bell for organizing and volunteers for providing food and booths.*
- *Upcoming events*
  - o *Looking forward to Aviation Station Week*
  - o *Valentine's Parties – will be on alternating days over the next week.*
- *Grade updates*
  - o *1<sup>st</sup> grade – working on opinion writing with the book Mr. Popper's Penguins*
  - o *2<sup>nd</sup> grade – working with maps and landforms, cursive writing and opinion writing*
  - o *3<sup>rd</sup> grade – focusing on biographies leading up to the Wax Museum presentation on 3/2.*
  - o *4<sup>th</sup> grade – is excited about upcoming railroad field trip (date TBD). Learning about fractions, the development of Ohio and the American Revolution.*

Principal & Assistant Principal Report

Anne Van Kirk and Jessica Ralston

- *Thank yous*
  - o *Teacher/staff lunches – special thank you to Alison and LaToya for organizing the staff Super Bowl luncheon.*
- *Aviation Station – next week's topic is Make Due. Student teams will be using the cardboard around school and the tools provided to make designated projects (animals, shelters, robot, desk organizer, etc.).*
- *Lobby Guard – implemented to increase school security. Device scans driver's license, does background check and prints photo badge for visitors into the school.*
  - o *Emergency bags are already in place, but administration will also be adding punch tools that will shatter the classroom windows if needed.*
- *Grandparents/Veterans Day – these events will alternate annually*
  - o *The plan is to send out a Save the Date next year for Grandparents' Day so parents have notice to share with grandparents who may travel.*
- *Student Self-Assessment – method where learners take ownership of their own learning targets. Teachers are implementing self-assessments (either in one lesson or a series of lessons), students are asked to rate themselves and their status on topics.*

President Report

Camilla Millar

- *Big thank you to all the families who put in so much work for Cultural Night and all the events taking place right now.*
- *District updates*
  - o *Bad weather snow days, delayed starts and early dismissals are entirely based on road conditions and wind chill factors for bus students.*

- *Directory will most likely be moved entirely moved to district level next year.*
- *Karen Naber Aviation Station update – about 60 Symmes students are coming to the Station on our designated days. They will start tracking data like test scores to monitor improvement. Over the next 4 months the Station will need about \$1500 for supplies. PTO may be able to contribute funds depending on Carnival success. Snacks are much appreciated, specific items needed are goldfish mini packs, Welch's fruit snacks and mini water bottles.*

## Treasurer's Report

Ashley Werthaiser

- **Budget Report**

- *Please turn in old receipts and deposits – it's important to know where we stand budget-wise for spring gifting so we can meet teacher needs.*
- *Lobby update is complete.*
- *SAC update – any parents with IEP students are invited to attend 3 upcoming informational sessions to provide input. Please call Sally Hayes at the District Office to RSVP.*

## VP Ways and Means

Patricia Barros/ Kenna Wahlquist

- **Carnival February 23!**

- *Help needed to decorate the school on Saturday February 17, 9:00AM-1:00PM.*

- **Sewing and Cleaning prize animals**

- *Join us Tuesday, February 13, at Camilla Millar's home 11122 Brookbridge Dr. 11:00-2:00. kids welcome*

- *Week of Carnival Feb 19-23...MPR 11:00-1:30 each day.*

- *Sewing skills not required!*

- **Bidding For Good, Go live date. Still accepting donations**

- <https://www.biddingforgood.com/symmesauktion2018>

- *Teacher preview is live now, open bidding starts Friday.*

- **Ticket Sales**

- *Presale tickets are available online through BFG at a discount. Tickets can also be purchased on Carnival night using cash or credit cards.*

- **Cash Raffle Tickets**

- *Cash raffle tickets are available for sale for \$10 each. Prizes for kids that sell tickets will start being distributed during lunch time soon.*

- **Sign up to volunteer the night of Carnival:**

- <https://tinyurl.com/carnivalvolunteers2018>

## VP Family Involvement

LaToya Goshen

- **Cultural Heritage recap and get opinions about this being a biannual event**

- *Everyone loves the celebration but volunteers are a struggle, especially food contributors.*
- *Suggestions were made to move the event to the fall, maybe a less busy time of year, or alternate food sample stations with craft stations.*

## VP Student Programs

Alison Peterman

- **Symmes Players**

- *82 students, rehearsals off and running*

- *Great parent volunteer turnout*
- *PTO was able to sponsor 3 students to participate*
- **Other updates**
  - *Symmes Stars still needs some helpers for the spring dates*
  - *Carnival volunteers*
    - *Please sign up for a shift!*

Recording Secretary

Leigh Grause

- **Yearbook orders due soon. Send pictures to Kim Hueil**
  - *Yearbook orders due March 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Presentation by Sycamore School Board Members

- *Diane Adamec, President (on board for 12 years, 2 Sycamore graduates now), and Paul Balent, Vice President (2 daughters now at Greene and Montgomery).*
  - *Main job is to hire Superintendent and Treasurer, and to provide guidance on district policies and financial matters including comparisons to other districts. The Board is not composed of educators, focus is mainly financial and high-level policy issues.*
  - *Board projects include:*
    - *Last year's levy – purpose was to compensate for decreased state funding – about \$14M a year*
    - *Advocating at the state legislature level with senators on how to compensate for changes.*
      - *State representatives passed bill that returned about \$2M over 4 years (Senate Bill 8).*
      - *Money will be taken back into consideration for long term plans*
    - *House bill 264 – bond levy to make energy improvements. Savings will pay for the bond (lighting, heating and cooling towers, etc.)*
    - *Master Planning – goal is for the Board to evaluate all the district buildings to determine a long-term plan.*
      - *Phase I (last year) was bringing in architectural firm to evaluate current state of the buildings.*
      - *Consideration given to changing needs in building setups to meet new learning challenges – collaborative learning, independent study, etc.*
      - *Greene School and Junior High have largest needs and most outdated facilities.*
      - *Next phase will have the architectural team meeting with the steering team to present viable options and involve community in decision making.*
      - *Consideration will be given to growth in enrollment in elementary schools.*

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Mackey

- **PTO Parking Space Drawing**
  - *Laura Bell is the spot winner*

## Old or New Business

- *Symmes Ambassadors*
  - o *Ambassadors are working on revising welcome packet for new families. The goal is to keep it concise but also useful. They would also like to have it ready in time for new enrollment.*

## Adjournment