



Pine Ridge PTO General Meeting Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Welcome / Principal's Report

- Welcome to the collaboration room, we are working on getting supplies into this room and making it a little nicer and more inviting for collaboration.
- Thank you to the PTO and parents for all your support. Will start to better communicate how the funds raised by the PTO and Pine Ridge Families are used for the school throughout the year. This will give families a better picture of how the fundraising money is being spent and how important it is to the school.
- Donations of clothes needed at school for slushy days and accidents
- Introduction of Officer Svoboda our guest speaker
 - Officer Svoboda met recently with first graders and gave them word detective badges

Teacher Representative Report

- John Saulter is our representative this year. He joined the school last year and has been overwhelmed by the support of the PTO here at Pine Ridge.
- He's excited to be involved this year as the representative, thanks PTO for all their support, and communicated how appreciative all teachers are of the support.

Special Guest/Speaker

- Officer Svoboda, resource officer for FHC, spoke on internet safety
- The district has three School Resource Officers (SROs) through the Kent County Sheriff's Department. These officers routinely visit our schools, interact with staff, students, and families, and help maintain a culture of open communication and safety while building positive relationships with students. Deputy Ben Dunneback services the Northern side of the district, Deputy Kresten Green services the Eastern side of the district, and Deputy Jim Svoboda services the Central side of the district.
- Officer Svoboda reviewed a PowerPoint Presentation: Uncharted Waters
- Overview of new phone policy:
 - Change is hard but the kids are adapting
 - 250 phones have been seized (repeat offenders), after the second offence the parent has to come in, third time there is a safety action plan to sign
- Internet:
 - The Good:
 - Immediate access to info, connectivity to others, voices became globalized, hashtags, levelled the playing field for all
 - The Bad:
 - Selfies, political and social tirades, people hiding behind anonymity, talk not action became the norm, ignorance and poor choices became amplified
 - Guard Your Information: Address, Phone, School, City, Sports Teams, Parent's workplace, passwords
 - This information should not be put out on the internet for safety and protection
 - Limit Your Time Online

- Unplug and get active, take time for family, spend face-to-face time with friends, there's no substitute for real life.
 - Some kids in the district will refuse to go to school because so addicted to fortnite, video games; addiction is a real problem
 - Recommendation is to limit time to do other activities, get outside
- Friend or Foe
 - Seeing is not believing
 - Be suspicious
 - Never schedule offline meetings with "online only" friends
 - Tell your parents or an adult you trust if anyone tried to meet with you offline.
 - You don't ever really know who you are talking to; kids and adults can get scammed
- Be "Scam Smart"
 - Don't open strange emails (check email address – does it look right?)
 - Beware of "free" downloads
 - Think about what you are asked for before you send it
 - Look at the spelling and content before you respond
- Privacy? Not on the web
 - All media is permanent
 - All info is available
 - Info from phones can be extracted even if it's swiped clean
 - If you don't want people to know about it then don't do it and especially don't do it online
- What is cyberbullying?
 - Bullying through electronic means (seeing this very widespread)
 - Text, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and other forms of social media gave a platform to bullies
 - Not only is it against the school rules, it's also against law
- Michigan Cyberbullying Law
 - The law states cyberbullying is a crime punishable by 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine. A "pattern of repeated harassment" is a felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5000 fine. Meanwhile, cyberbullying that is found to cause a victim's death is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine
- How to respond
 - Don't react-responding empowers the bully
 - Report it to your parents and staff
 - Don't participate-participating reinforces the behavior
 - Encourage others to stand up
- Sexting
 - Sending or receiving sexually explicit or suggestive images or videos through electronic means
 - The effects are adverse not only emotionally but legally too
 - Big issue in schools; this year it's been occurring less since phones aren't allowed during school
 - In Michigan, it's allowed to have sex and get married at 16, you can't send a nude photo until 18
 - Legal consequences: 4 yrs (possession) or 20 yr felony (distributing); kids charged with sexting will usually be put in a diversion program and their record will clear if they don't have another offense. This program is meant more for gf/bf sharing photos, not a kid distributing to many classmates
 - 4 hour online class

- Program seems to be working, kids learning and not many people have to repeat program
 - Emotional Consequences
 - Embarrassment, fear, guilt, reputations are compromised
- High School Health Class
 - Presentations for sex, drugs, alcohol, sexting
 - Review the laws, penalties
 - Cyberbullying, vaping, alcohol laws, sexting were also reviewed this year for high school classes
 - 7th/8th grade spoken to about this subject too
- What do you do?
 - Make good choices
 - Think before you send anything
 - Don't be spontaneous or give into peer pressure
 - Be the person you want to be and the person your family hopes you'll be
 - If you make a mistake, own it, learn from it, show it's not who you are and move forward
 - Be a leader
 - Officer: Svoboda's goal is to work with the kids to make sure they don't make these mistakes again, teach them about being leaders and stepping up
- Internet Safety Tips for Parents
 - Do speak with your child about their internet habits and safety concerns
 - Do set a limit for how much time your child can spend online
 - Do keep the computer in a public place; don't allow devices in bedrooms
 - Do install safety hardware and monitoring software and keep it updated
 - Do not overreact or threaten to take away the internet if your child tells you about something bad that they experience online
 - Do encourage your child to teach you what they know about the internet
 - Do not allow your child to have an online profile
 - Do not hesitate to get help if you think a predator may be targeting your child
 - Do get to know your child's online friends as you would their real life friends
 - Kids can get hold of old devices or old phones that they can access that parents aren't aware of (if current phone taken at night). Neighbor wireless networks can be accessed
 - Go through snapchat friends with your kids and if you don't know them, unfriend them.
- Guides for Children on the Internet
 - Never tell anyone personal information about you unless you ask a parent or guardian first
 - Never agree to meeting anyone in person you meet online
 - Don't say mean things to anyone online
 - If others say mean things online, go somewhere else online, or sign off quickly; tell your parents
 - Remember that a person may pretend to be someone different online
 - You should not be at a site or in a chat room if you would feel uncomfortable sharing it with your parents
 - If you come across such a site or chat room, click the back button and go somewhere else online right away
 - Don't do anything online that you know you shouldn't do in real life
 - Treat people the same way you would treat them in person
- Great Resource for all ages:
 - <https://www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz>

- Email for Officer: jim.svoboda@kentcountymi.gov

Vice President's Report-Joni Wordhouse

- Still looking for a Carnival chair for March 14
 - Looking for 1-2 co-chairs; some volunteers have signed up for sub committees
 - Contact Joni Wordhouse (jwordhouse@yahoo.com) if interested
- Winter Break
 - GRG fundraiser TBD (last year made \$800); look for more information soon

Treasurer's Report-Erin McClarty

- What has the PTO been able to provide so far this year:
 - Provide postage and stationery for Mrs. James so every kids gets a bday card from her
 - Mrs. Zeitz has \$3000 library budget for the year (new books, 4th grade book club)
 - Cultural arts has a \$5000 yr budget / spent on Laurie Keller visit, Jackie Robertson assembly, Native American assembly for 2nd grade
 - Sent Senora Saladin to a conference/ training
 - Kindergarten, iPads, cases and pens (on way)
 - 3rd grade IXL math program for 3 years
 - New Book Fair – Follett (made \$400 more than normal)
 - Yearly Gives: \$7000 professional development (Grade level teams looking for time for planning, professional learning is a huge gift for collaboration (PTO pays for the subs so they can do that); \$5500 transportation to cover all field trips; \$3000 towards technology
- Auction
 - Please contact Britt Metzger if you can help with the auction (brittmetzger@gmail.com). Planning meetings will start in January.

President's Report-Tiffany Fox

- Looking forward to the Winter celebrations, planning is underway. The service project will be packing snack packs for kids (Hand2Hand) over break who will not have food to eat away from school.
- Hot Cocoa celebrations will be provided on the last day of school, Friday December 20, to celebrate PBIS. More information to come from Tamasha.
- PTO Committee Positions: There are several PTO board positions that need to be filled for next year: Secretary, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Asst. Treasurer. Please contact Tiffany Fox if you are interested or want more information (tifffox18@gmail.com).