

March 13, 2018 - Endeavour PTO General Session Meeting Minutes
Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.; adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Present: Lillie Torres (President), Jill Hammitt (Vice President), Brandy Gosch (Treasurer), Anita Acosta (Secretary), Josh Goodman (Principal) and 15 additional PTO parents/teachers/staff (quorum requirements met).

Motions:

Motion to approve February 2018 Meeting Minutes as written.

- a. Motion by Christina Banham
- b. 2nd by Andrea Ard
- c. Motion passed with 19 in favor and 0 abstaining

Motion to increase 5th grade camp budget from \$2,600 to \$5,200.

- a. Motion by Heather Sanderfer
- b. 2nd by Jackie Nelson
- c. Motion passed with 17 in favor and 2 abstaining

New Business:

5th Grade Camp – Lillie: Discussion was had as the Board received questions about the \$2,600 increase to 5th grade camp budget (see attached questions and responses):

- Mr. Goodman mentioned at the September PTO meeting that the school would be receiving only a portion of an outside grant for 5th grade camp that they had received in previous years (as the granting requirements had changed for that company to not fund off campus events) and the school may ask the PTO for additional financial support. The ASB read a thon fundraiser was raising less funds each year and the school does not want to add additional fundraisers asking our families for more money in addition to our existing Jump Rope for Heart and PTO fundraisers.

- It was not known until January 2018 that the whole grant amount would be needed. Given that, the Dance a Thon funds were not being raised for just 5th grade camp. The PTO, following our mission statement, does not equally distribute money raised, but relies on direction from the school for where the funds are most needed and through grants submitted by the teachers (most of which are received by 2nd and 4th grades, PE, library and specialists).

- The funds needed for camp ensure that every 5th grader has the opportunity to go to camp, regardless of their family financial situation. The camp cost goes up each year; this year it is \$130. \$10 is covered by the school; those students on free and reduced lunch (about 54% of the 5th graders) are asked to pay \$90, and everyone else, \$120. Scholarships are granted through these funds for students on the free and reduced lunch program that are not able to pay any or all of the \$90 (last year that was 51 students). The majority of the PTO funds raised for 5th grade camp go toward these scholarships.

- The PTO Board has reached out to our local community partners to try and receive help in raising the extra funds requested, but have not received any responses so far. The PTO Board wants to ensure all kids have the opportunity to go to camp this year and secure that opportunity for future years.

- This is the first year this funding was not available and the extent of which was not known until January. Much discussion was had about options for future years and 5th graders raising money (no 5th grade parents have been contacted this year about contributing/raising more), more money coming from the district, spreading the word to other families and outside community partners about sponsoring students, starting the discussion about 5th grade camp in 2nd grade for families to be able to budget for camp sooner, chaperones paying for their camp fee, etc.

- The great news is that we had a very successful Dance a Thon fundraiser and Brandy has calculated out (conservatively) what additional funds should be raised (Penny Wars, Bingo Night and Yearbooks) and what expenses should be paid and, even covering the additional \$2,600 needed for 5th grade camp, we should still have around \$9,100 for teacher grants. Last year was our best year under the current PTO Board and we were able to fulfill every grant (minus 1 item for PE) for \$4,600. Given that, every grade level should be able to have grants funded this year. In addition, we should have about 1,864 scholastic dollars to spend and be able to raise money from the profits of the spring book fair.

Penny Wars – Lillie: We need help decorating the 5 gallon penny jugs for penny wars to be ready for spring book fair tomorrow. The winning grade will be able to pie all 3 Misters in the face as their reward, either during their lunch time or school assembly.

Board Positions 2018-2019 – Lillie: We have people willing to fill the Vice President and Secretary Board positions and, depending on her schedule, Brandy may be able to return as Treasurer, but we really need someone in the President position for the PTO to continue. Please contact any Board member with questions.

Website/Email – Jill: The website is up and running. There is an issue with a spam blocker on the new email so please add the email address to your safe addresses to help get past this block quicker.

The popsicles as a reward for meeting our Dance a Thon fundraising goal by the students will be during the week of April 23rd.

Treasurer's Report – Brandy: Our current bank balance is \$22,764.89. Received increased funds from Amazon Smile and Fred Meyer Rewards programs and a Bingo Night contribution of \$250. A few more funds were allocated from Supplies to Computer Software to cover the addition of the email address for the website.

Committee Reports:

Bingo Night: Carmen/Jamie – We have 3 food trucks scheduled. Advertising for the event will start the first of April. The event budget is good and the prizes are great, both for the bingo table and raffles. A volunteer sign-up sheet is available to sign up for the event.

Book Fair: Janette – Still need some volunteers, so please go to the link in the email to sign up for any open spots. Adults will get \$5 scholastic dollars to spend.

Books for a Buck: Christina – A box will be set out at the book fair to collect donations for the book drive during conference week.

Box Tops: Anita – We raised around \$516 from our March submission.

5th Grade Party: Brandy – The party is in the planning stages, but discussion and agreement was had to raise the student's cost to \$10 to cover all costs for the party.

Yearbook: Heather- The pre-sale has gone great. Approximately 75 yearbooks have been sold so far. The cost for the student's name on the book is not very much higher than the generic yearbooks. The program continues to be slow and difficult to use.

Principal's Message: Thank you for the candid conversation regarding 5th grade camp and the school really appreciates all the PTO does throughout the year.

Upcoming Dates

March Conferences/Book Fair – March 14th – 16th

Penny Wars – March 14th – 23rd

Spring Break – April 2nd - 6th

Next PTO Meeting – April 10th – Annual Meeting

Musical Performance – April 19th

5th Grade Camp – April 23rd – 25th

Bingo Night – April 27th

1. What does the \$5200 cover exactly?

Currently 54% of Endeavour fifth grade students qualify for free and reduced lunch, which equates to approximately 73 of 141 fifth grade students. Those students are discounted to pay only \$90 of the \$120 for camp fees and they can apply for scholarships to cover 100% of camp. 51 families were granted scholarships last year to fully or partially fund the cost of camp. This money allows the school to subsidize the discount and support the scholarships for families who cannot afford the cost of camp.

2. When did fifth grade find out about not getting the grant money?

The school learned in September that the grant money that has been available in the past would be reduced or eliminated. In the September PTO meeting it was brought up that additional funds might be requested. The formal request to increase the PTO support from \$2600 to \$5200 was made in January.

3. What has/is the fifth-grade parents doing to raise this money?

The requests for the additional funds was made by the school and the school has not taken this request to the fifth-grade parents directly. It is likely that most fifth-grade families are not aware of the funding gap and the school does not wish to discourage families from asking for financial help.

4. What is the plan if PTO does not cover the extra \$2600?

The cost for camp for all families would go up and due to limited funds for scholarships and subsidizing, some students may not be able to afford to attend.

5. What alternatives if any are the camp planners looking into?

The school camp planners requested additional support from the PTO. The PTO board is submitting requests to community organizations to try and raise additional funds to cover this request. Unfortunately, a lot of these types of community grants are awarded prior to a school year which leaves fewer options at this time.

6. Will this affect future fifth grade camps?

Yes, Endeavour no longer qualifies for the grant that they received to cover this expense in the past. Therefore, this may be an additional cost the PTO will need to consider for future budget years.

7. If we say "YES" this year will it set precedent to future fifth grade camps?

A formal request to include the additional \$2600 has not been made to the PTO for future camp years but it is likely that the request will be made and should be considered for future budgeting.

8. Is it feasible to grant this amount of money to a fourth of the school when PTO should be helping out the whole school?

Unfortunately, no programs that the PTO supports can benefit all students equally. We are fortunate that in the years that the current board has been involved, we have not often had to reduce, and we have only once denied a grant request made from any grade level or program. All students eventually attend camp, therefore when we support the program, it supports all Endeavour students as they reach fifth grade.