

# PAWS March Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

# AGENDA:

- \* Ms. Johnson/Lorenzen report
  - Clothing Bins
- \*Thank you for those that donated to teacher snacks for conferences!
- \*Chipotle Spirit Night- Wednesday from 4-8 Code: QLQTYZ9
- \*Fun Night Report
- \*Shirts Report
- \*February Financial Report
- \*Upcoming Elections

# Fun Night Report: Ka'meka

## Fun Night Updates for 2024:

- No Cost to families to attend Fun Night. We will give the option for anyone to make a Free Will Donation at the door.
- In addition, there is a free meal provided by the church everyone.
- We are looking into having a second animal room.

# February Financial Report

## Expenses:

- Spring Conferences: \$124.81
- Nurse Stipend: \$41.20
- 3rd Grade pizza: \$64.44
- 5th Grade Outing: \$60.00
- Scholastic Book Fair Payment: \$647.69
- Library Books: \$63.21
- Petty cash: \$150.00

## Income:

- Beautification Committee: \$795.83 (set aside)
- Scholastic Book Fair: \$875.08

# February Financial Report (cont.)

Current Year \$

Fundraising \$12,471.56

Reserve \$1,248.00 (current cap \$13,000)

Unspent funds at the end of the school year:

50% to be applied to following year budget account

25% to the reserves

25% to one time requests for administration

# Upcoming Elections

- Elections will be held during May general meeting
- Nominations for positions are due March 31.
  - > 2 year positions - Treasurer and Vice President
  - > 1 year position (unfilled) - Secretary/Media Specialist
- Submit candidate name through Google form (PAWS Newsletter)

# By Laws Intro

- THANK YOU!!!
  - We appreciate all of the responses to the bylaws.
- Special Meeting to address all questions
  - Wednesday, March 20th 6-7pm

# General Information:

- Who and how were the bylaws created? Were national PTO standards met with the information provided?
  - ◆ Our Bylaws are a reflection of Windsor Elementary PAWS. PAWS is a Parent Teacher Organization, PTO, not a Parent Teacher Association, PTA. There is not a national PTO Organization, unlike a national PTA. The differences:
  - ◆ “PTO’s are run independently, set their own policies and goals and control how their funding is used. PTA’s are part of a larger organized network working toward making an impact on decisions that go beyond their schoolyard, experts say, while PTO’s focus more on issues specific to their local school or school district.”- US News. Com
  - ◆ <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/what-does-a-parent-teacher-association-do>



# General Information Continued:

- The PAWS Bylaws were generated from ideas found from other Des Moines Public elementary school PTO's and other references.
  - ◆ “Many people consider PTO Today to be the closest equivalent to a national PTO.”

# Budget Questions- Scott

- According to Article X, Section 5 The budget may contain a line item for a general fund amount. Can this be used to cover teacher requests for items not specifically line-itemed in the budget?
  - ◆ Specific teacher requests are referred back to their stipend first. Requests involving multiple classrooms may be covered under the general fund (if it exists that year).
  
- How was the budget created?
  - ◆ The budget is created based on requests from staff/administration and adjustments from the previous year. (Article X, Section 3)

# Budget Questions Continued

- How are end of year financial close outs handled?
  - ◆ Closeout occurs during June to allow for all transactions to clear to allow for the division of the remaining funds to their allocations.
  
- How much money is allotted to any given project?
  - ◆ Amounts are allocated based on requests from staff/administration and adjustments from the previous year. This changes from year to year.  
(Article X, Section 3)

# Compensation Question (Article IV, Section 4)

- Article IV, Section 4: “No part of the net earnings of the PAWS shall lure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II.
- ◆ PAWS board members are not paid!
  - ◆ Pay a business for services even if they have a child at Windsor.
  - ◆ Possible reimbursement for expenses generally covered by PAWS (printing, purchases for events when PAWS card is not available, etc.)

## Dissolution (Article IV, Section 5)

- How and why was the decision made to release all remaining assets to any entity other than Windsor Elementary?
  - ◆ The goal of the distribution is to give the money directly to Windsor, however due to rules and guidelines changing with new administration through the district about large amounts of money given to a school could possibly be used by the district to short the school in later budgets. The thought is that it possibly could be gifted to Windsor in a roundabout way without it hurting Windsor in the long run.

## **Position Terms - Article VIII**

- A term for any PAWS executive board position is 2 years with elections for positions every year. With elections for different positions every year, it gives options for different positions based on the interest of a potential candidate. A 2-year term allows for a members to learn their position and duties with the support of experienced members in their first year and then to provide the same guidance during their second year.
- The bylaws allow the option for an executive board member to stay in the position if there are no other candidates so PAWS is able to continue functioning and supporting the school. If we get to a point where there is increased interest for board membership, this can be revisited.