

Allendale Middle School PTO Minutes
Monday, April 11, 2011

Present: Kieth Piccard, Adam Wurst, Rhonda Wilson, Paula Mayers, Cristy Sauter, Shelley Sickrey, Chris Kelly, Stephen Yarnal, Rocky Thompson

1. Call to Order
 - a. Made at 6:59 PM
2. Secretary's Report
 - a. March minutes approved
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. None given by treasurer who was absent
 - b. We will need to purchase enough Quest for the Cup rewards for the remaining five weeks
 - c. Some deposits were made
4. Teacher's Reports
 - a. 6th grade: Kieth Piccard reported that the Reading Walkathon happened the Thursday before Spring Break; the class trip to Chicago will be on May 3, 2011
 - b. 7th grade: Chris Kelly reported that the class trip to Detroit on May 13, 2011 will include visits to Greenfield Village, the Henry Ford Museum, and a Tigers baseball game; the E-Team is organizing a Walk for Water to be held Thursday, May 19, 2011, flyers will go out to area businesses and the kids have committed to Adopt-a-Beach and they are all working hard; Vicki Apel will be returning to the 7th grade team soon from her maternity leave
 - c. 8th grade: Steve Yarnal reported that the 8th grade celebration and awards ceremony planning is coming together; the Reading Reward Challenge went well; the Science Olympiad team is going to State; the 8th grade class trip to Michigan's Adventure will be on the first Friday in June
 - d. Exploratories: Adam Wurst reported that the Band and Choir are gearing up for their State, the Choir is going on May 10, 2011, and Band on May 5, 2011; the Choir concert will be held on May 16, 2011, and Band on May 24, 2011; the composer visit was very exciting and Kevin and Adam sent the composer "thank you" letters from the kids
5. Counselor's Report
 - a. Rhonda Wilson reported that FOX 17 came in to interview some kids and the video is available the FOX 17 website; the Archery Club has ended for the year; working on a Climbing Club using the climbing wall at the GVSU Rec Center; there is a parent meeting coming up on April 26, 2011 where discussions will be on how to get involved in the Middle School, i.e. PTO, Athletic Boosters for Middle School, ideas about "non-fundraiser" fundraisers
6. Principal's Report
 - a. Rocky Thompson shared some information given by Dr. Jonker and the MEA about Governor Snyder's budget proposal to cut \$1.6 million, which amounts to cutting: 25 teachers (increasing classroom sizes to 38-40 students), or all non-teacher positions, or special education programs, or bussing – if this proposal goes through, Allendale Public Schools will look very different next year; Lansing is saying they are not hearing from parents, teachers, or administrators (except for Superintendents) about how these cuts would devastate the schools; while Rocky is not political, he highly encourages communication to Lansing about how we do not have a fund equity to be able to eat these cuts; this will be getting ugly if it goes through; APS needs your help – write, write, write, and not just once – there are only eight weeks of school left; some resources were provided and are attached
7. Committees
 - a. 8th grade celebration: they are meeting now, and flyers will be going home this week; cost is around \$15; it will be at Main Street Pub and we are bussing them; the flyer will discuss "appropriate dress"

- i. Rocky: there will be no excused absences for hair or limo
- 8. New Business
 - a. There will be a book fair during the first week of May – more information will be going home from Karen Mosier
 - b. The Community Relations Committee is wondering if the PTO would be interested in making a donation to the Alma Matter group, any amount would do, but \$300 would be nice
 - c. Keith Piccard is looking into a J-Store subscription and will forward a proposal
- 9. Old Business
 - a. Elections
 - i. There is one possible interest
 - ii. Colleen and Shelley are willing to continue on the PTO Board next year
 - iii. Rhonda is working hard to find more parents
 - iv. You will have a Board next year
 - v. We could have a meeting in May, but we will likely elect/confirm the Board during the first meeting of the 2011-2012 academic year
- 10. Questions from the Floor
 - a. Kelly: Regarding the Paper Gator – what happens to the paper to be recycled here at the Middle School?
 - i. Cristy: Chuck is supposed to be taking it to our Paper Gator on Lake Michigan Drive
 - b. Kelly: The E-Team says “thank you” for the plastics

Door prize was refused. Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Sickrey
PTO Secretary



Suggested Messages

Dear _____,

I am a _____. I am furious that the current legislation is aimed at taking away my voice as a taxpayer, as a voter, as a school employee and as a member of the middle class. It's time politicians, regardless of their party, listen to us and renew the balance in our economy. Your promise was to create jobs. Your partisan politics will not create a single job. Stop the attacks on Michigan's middle class.

Dear _____,

I am a _____ who is angry over the constant attacks on school employees. We are dedicated to making sure the children of this state receive a quality education that will prepare them for a successful future. You seem dedicated to making sure that doesn't happen. From slashing the education budget to diminishing collective bargaining, your partisan politics are destroying education and the middle class—two key elements in saving Michigan. Stop the attacks.

Dear _____,

I am a _____. The message of "shared sacrifice" is hard to believe when all of your efforts are aimed at making sure big business survives and the middle class—people like me—suffer. Your efforts at cutting the wages and benefits of the middle class, taxing seniors and the poor, and slashing education funding will destroy this state. None of these moves will create the jobs you promised. Stop the attacks.

Message Tips

- You can write your own message.
- Be sure to personalize your messages with your own story.
- Identify yourself and what you do as a school employee.

Home E-mail Address

Home Phone Number

Cell Phone Number

YES! I want to help in the fight against the legislative attack

I'm willing to take the following actions *(Check all that apply)*

- Write a postcard to my legislator.
- E-mail my legislator.
- Phone my legislator
- Meet face-to-face with legislators
- Attend a rally/protest in Lansing
- Participate in local community events
- Speak at community forum, town hall meeting, rally, protest

Governor

Governor Rick Snyder
2nd Floor Romney Bldg
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
rick.snyder@michigan.gov

Michigan Senators

Senator Mark Jansen (28-GR)
S-310 Capitol Bldg
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-0797 or 866-305-2128
senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Arlan Meekhof (30-West Olive)
S-8 Capitol Bldg
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-6920
senameekhof@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Dave Hildenbrand (29-Lowell)
920 Farnum Bldg
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1801
sendhildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Geoff Hansen (34 - Hart)
420 Farnum Bldg
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1635
senghansen@senate.michigan.gov

Michigan Representatives

Representative David Agema (74-Grandville)
1092 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-8900 or 800-968-2320
DaveAgema@house.mi.gov

Representative Roy Schmidt (76-GR)
1095 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-0822 or 877-976-4ROY
RoySchmidt@house.mi.gov

Representative Brandon Dillon (75 – GR)
1094 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-2668 or 888-750-3326
BrandonDillon@house.mi.gov

Representative Bob Genetski (88-Saug)
1192 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-0836 or 888-MICH-088
BobGenetski@house.mi.gov

Representative Amanda Price (89-Holland)
1193 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-0838 or 888-238-1008
AmandaPrice@house.mi.gov

Senator Holly Hughes (91-Montague)
1195 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-3436 or 877-633-0331
HollyHughes@house.mi.gov

Representative Joseph Haveman (90-Holl)
1194 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-0830 or 866-908-4347
josephhavemen@house.mi.gov

Representative Marcia Hovey-Wright (92-Musk)
1196 House Office Bldg
Lansing, MI 48933
517-373-2646 or 877-411-3684
MarciaHoveyWright@house.mi.gov

Find your elected official:

Senator

<http://senate.michigan.gov>

Representative (House)

<http://house.michigan.gov>

Sen AMeekhof@senate.michigan.gov