



# Killearn Lakes Elementary

PTO Meeting  
November 15, 2022  
6:00 pm

## Minutes

### Attendance:

Principal Brenda Wagner, Assistant Principal Champayne Ricciardi, Principal in transition - Jenny Blair, Ressa Tomkiewicz, Allison Hartsfield, Karen Benavidez, Jamie Sheehan, Brittany Auclair, Taylor Wright, Katie Giagos, Lenard Franklin, Colleen Sellers, Whitnee Fuqua, Angie Gruber, Troy Diggs, Katherine Fothergill, Heather Jackson, Imogene Reddick, Patricia Pagozalski, Jessica Cain, Teresa Horn, and Lisa Daws

Welcome at 6:02 pm

Ressa Tomkiewicz

Intro – so glad to have you here. I know your time is valuable so it means a lot to us

Principal's Report

Brenda Wagner/Jenny Blair

Jenny says she is super glad to be here. Originally from Miami, but went to Godby High School. She has a Masters and background is helping students with special needs. She has twin 6-year-old boys that will be at KLES next year and a 13-year-old daughter. She decided to jump at the opportunity to learn from Principal Wagner.

Principal Wagner is thrilled to have her here. She says Jenny's schedule will possibly three days a week and will be full time either December or January.

Moving on to Fall Festival Principal Wagner said it was the best she has ever seen. It was so well planned. Can't thank the PTO enough.

There are two new hires and posting two positions. The school is having issues with behavior, meaning kids getting along, socials skills, etc. There will be a 6 hour paraprofessional (like a classroom aide) to help with behavioral kids. Will also be getting another staff specialist (like Mr. Burden). We need more and want to support our kids. This is why we started the citizenship award to reward the good behavior.

Keep up with your calendar. Peacock is fabulous with listserv, but there is a lot going on. Friday is Friendsgiving and parents can picnic with their kids. This is kickstarting Lunch Bunch coming back soon. Lunch Bunch will start Monday after Thanksgiving.

Vice Principal's Report

Champayne Ricciardi

FAST testing is coming up in December. The same as the Progress Monitoring (PM) done at the beginning of the year in order to show that the students are growing. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade - FAST tests

are on the computer ELA and Math (December 5-9) make ups will be the following week (but not ideal).

Hoping to see growth from PM1 to PM2 and make sure students are on the right path so we can adjust if needed.

3-5: their scores should automatically upload within 24 hours to parent portal. Go to Department Of Education and it will take you to all of their testing. Or go into the parent portal and it will show results. K-2 is not being promised right away, but the scores will come. Any questions give your teacher a holler or contact me. It went fast the first time so this should be a piece of cake.

## Board Member Reports

- Director of Finance

Allison Hartsfield

\$21,271 – Final Patron Total; other expenses (about \$300) for the parties we did for the classroom winners.

School Store – (Transfer from Square) from Open House \$220

Main thing this month was Fall Festival. Spent \$3,000 (on Redemptive Love Farm, wristbands, snacks, decorations, face painting, etc.). Total ticket sales were \$7,400. We were hoping to just break even, but we profited \$4,500!!!

Ressa says she is still proud of Patron total because we did increase it from last year. It's a tight year for families so we are still excited how far we have come. The money will help for events we want to have in the future to thank our teachers and staff.

- Directors of Fundraising

Karen Benavidez, Jamie Sheehan

Spirit Wear Sales are ending on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Still trying to figure out when we actually get the shirts. The last batch that came in have been put in the teacher's boxes. Next batch will be after Thanksgiving.

Taylor asked if the Best Year Ever shirts are in adult sizes and if they can be ordered online. Yes, there are adult sizes and yes they can be ordered online.

Amazon Smile – one more push for that. It was posted on Facebook today.

- Director of Communications

Brittany Auclair

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting – Taylor Wright  
Seconded by Allison Hartsfield

- Business Partner Coordinator

Taylor Wright

Couple quick updates:

Killearn Dance Troup renewed. Huge endorsement from Killearn Lakes Taekwondo. They were previously a partner before, but it's been awhile. Close to \$6000 total in just Business Partners donations. Turning out to be a good year. There are a couple of other business Taylor is hoping to join this year. The community loves KLES so it makes her job easier so thank you to parents and staff for that. Looking forward to what is going to happen in the next few months. She is not going to stop asking, worst is that the business can say no!

- Volunteer Coordinator

Jennifer Griswold

Update given by Ressa:

Friendsgiving – sign up genius is full

December 5-9 with Holiday Giving 10-12 parent volunteers to work with Jamie and sort the presents for the families as well as the food.

Health screenings have been rescheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>

## Old Business

Ressa Tomkiewicz

PTO provided snacks for the October 20<sup>th</sup> faculty meeting. Coming up in December PTO hosts the holiday luncheon. And January PTO will do snacks again for that faculty meeting.

Fall Festival – goal was to break even. 475 tickets sold. We even ran out of tickets so closer to 500. 1,000 people that walked through our school that day. Kudos to head custodian Mr. Leland for the night before and the entire day of the event. Principal Wagner was also there on Saturday to help with any issues that arose. There were 47 volunteers (26 students from DeerLake and 21 adults). Thank you for the beautiful balloon arch that was donated. And thanks to Katie for all her assistance in planning.

Katie Giagos is our October volunteer of the month. She makes a great team with Elena and Lisa.

Allison wants to give kudos to the parents who did the carnival games for both running them as well as the prizes (most of them purchased the prizes themselves).

## New Business

Ressa Tomkiewicz

Friendsgiving is on Friday. There will be a nice spread on the table because Ressa likes to decorate. Blue Water is providing the lunch and PTO will help with the costs for the teachers.

Holiday Giving – PTO is proud of this program. The numbers of families that are in need at our school has gone down. Decided to do the food drive differently this year. There was a signup genius so PTO could get a better distribution of needed items instead of 400 toothbrushes (just an example). Helpful way of getting them distributed so we don't interrupt the classrooms.

Each family is going to be assigned a grade and there will also be a signup genius with all the items that family requested and it will be sent out. There are six families (but like 23 children).

## Campus Enhancement

Jessica Cain

\$12,000 leftover from previous years. Plan to at least get the project rolling this year whether or not it gets completed.

Update: bouncing around ideas with teachers input. One idea is cleaning up the front garden and turning it into a memorial garden for staff that has passed. Nothing has been chosen yet. Other ideas like shade for outdoor classrooms. Get rid of that sand area on the younger children's area playground. Painted playscapes (like 4 square). But want to focus on the garden first.

Michael Hall was a student who passed a long time ago. Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Mejia passed away last year. In years previous Gary Lyda also passed away in a car accident. A scholarship fund was created for him to help kids with field trip money and supply fees.

What do we want to do? Taylor let us know it was \$70/month to hire someone to maintain the garden area a couple of years ago to keep trees cut and metal gate shaved to not show AC unit. We can also get volunteers and make it a great school activity. The garden up front is a beautiful space.

Idea: Partner with a nursery/landscaping business? They could maintain the garden and put up their business sign. Taylor will reach out to a friend who owns a landscaping business and will have them contact Jessica Cain.

Principal Wagner stated that Jessica has been good about keeping admin informed about the project and please continue to do so.

Back to Four Square idea.... There was someone who volunteered at the Fall Festival who painting the gamescape is his hobby and it does not take up much upkeep. Allison believes the four square is already outlined it just needs to be repainted. We could also add the twister dots like were on the lawn.

Ressa said there is more to come on that and will keep everyone informed.

## Share Night Update

Katie Giagios

Smitty's was last week and the check is not available until the end of the month, but we earned \$325 (they ended up doing 25% and it ran all day long).

Hanger 38 was approximately \$500 and will work with us again in the spring. Katie thinks she will set it up at the end of the year. Less homework, business is slower, etc.

Texas Roadhouse is next. They are sending a flyer soon. Will probably start being promoted at the end of the month. 10% of every gift card sold will be donated to school. They can be used at any Texas Roadhouse. It is also possible that our logo will go on the gift card.

Men's basketball game December 10<sup>th</sup> hopefully. FSU Athletics hasn't responded yet. But last night's game was not well attended so maybe they will respond sooner.

November 19<sup>th</sup> – Dragons Eat Tacos - 2pm matinee FSU Theater \$5 from each ticket will be donated to our school. Will also do a spring show.

Jan 31 (Tuesday night) – 5pm-7:30pm Skate World was booked today. 100% of the proceeds come back to us. Have to guarantee 50 children minimum. Buck Lake just did it and made like \$1500. They provide all 800 flyers and the stickers for the day of the event. They are giving coupons to teachers to

skate for free and eat for free. They also offer hardship passes to families in need. Kids will have to have long socks.

We have done father/daughter and mother/son events in the past. Ressa would love to have something like that again in the Spring.

Need a couple more ideas for Spring. Still thinking Moe's and Dave's Pizza Garage and Hanger 38 (as previously mentioned). Always looking for new ideas.

Tallahassee Nurseries/Frother's Daughter has also been contacted for a possible share event.

## Teacher Reports

Lead Teachers

### Kindergarten

Reddick

These guys are working hard and just finished community helper unit. She brought some future community helper projects: a rockstar, a doctor, teachers, vet, baker, and two different kinds of policemen (one is a K9). Thanksgiving is coming up so they have turkey projects, which has sight words and counting. Field trip to Aunt Louise's Farm is coming up as they have been learning about animals.

### First

Sellars

Field Trip on Thursday to see Dragons Eat Tacos. They have been doing turkey activities and what they are thankful for. Studying math facts and families.

### Second

Fuqua

They have finished animal habitats and they are being displayed in the media center (she showed a very cool one of a shark in a tube of water). Their first field trip was today at Young Actor's Theater (YAT) to see Elf. They are working on 2 digit regrouping in math and getting ready for subtraction. Also working on native Americans for social studies.

### Third

Allen

Update given by Ricciardi:

Teresa Horne has agreed to be a consistent sub for Mrs. Allen's class. Field trip to see Elf at YAT is tomorrow. Recently, Joe Budd came out here and set up in courtyard with hands on experiences such as touching snake skins for the kids. Students were so engaged. The reptile unit is coming up. Third grade will also be doing a Christmas program (same day as the Holiday Luncheon – December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm).

### Fourth

Garcia

Update given by Ms. Jackson:

Sidenote from Admin: Mrs. Jackson is newly engaged!!!!!! (At this announcement Ms. Jackson turned a beautiful shade of pink!)

Students are working on long division and writing opinion papers. They are also working on powerpoints on Life as a Seminole Indian. These Powerpoint skills will help them in the future. She finds it very exciting that the students love to make Powerpoints. Tomorrow they are staying in their homeroom watching a movie and eating pizza while working on Thanksgiving activities.

Fifth

Jackson

Kids have been so brave. The 4H Tropicana Speech contest was last week and kids got up in front of a group to read their speech. Today was the Spelling Bee competition. Ms. Jackson believes the students are much braver than she is! She says it was awesome to see parents there. In math they are finishing up decimal division and saying goodbye to the standard algorithm. Soon the fifth graders will be starting with fractions. Mr. Dietrich came in and students got to build circuits. In science, they finished their unit on energy. And everyone is excited about Friendsgiving.

Special Area

Gruber

PE: soccer unit with kicking/dribbling

Music: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade recently had a program in the cafeteria

Art: kids are working on Thanksgiving projects

Media: The Macy's Parade (grades third through fifth this semester)

Guidance: The 6 pillars of character (grades kindergarten through second this semester)

Open Forum/ Q&A

Ressa Tomkiewicz

Adjourn Meeting at 6:58pm

Ressa Tomkiewicz