



Union Valley Elementary PTO

General Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Union Valley Library

I. Principal's Report:

- A. We started our PBIS rewards program. If students follow school rules, they can earn Bulldog Bucks which may be given by any staff member. Point values range from 1 - 100. We had our first exchange on October 25 along with it being Spirit Day and Pretzel Sale Day. It all paired really well. Some prize options for "purchase" are Chic-fil-A lunch, sitting with a friend in the cafeteria, and Principal's Chair. In addition, fruit snacks, takis, and chips are highly preferred items. Older students were holding onto the money to save for "bigger purchases.". At the end of the marking period, there will be a chance for a bigger experience such as a movie and popcorn or dance party.
- B. Our 5th graders have fun privileges. They have Champs Club in fall and spring (6 sessions total, held each Wednesday after school). Our offerings this session are basketball, coding, book club, art club, and board games.
- C. We started SNAP (Students Needing Assistance Pronto). It's for help in math afterschool for the older kids. Next session, it will be for younger grades in reading.
- D. We are celebrating the Week of Respect with Spirit Days and activities. Tomorrow is Pajama Day, Picture Day is Thursday and the Fun Run is Friday.
- E. Fire Prevention Week and School Bus Safety Week are in two weeks. Students will write thank you notes for the bus drivers.
- F. Our second assembly will be Tuesday October 15. It will be an Illusion Assembly for grades K-2 and 3-5.
- G. Our first School Store is tomorrow.
- H. Student Council is having a fundraiser at Glow (drive thru light show) and also collecting items for Unforgotten Haven's Snack Packs for Chemo.
- I. Parent Teacher conferences will be held November 13-15. Teachers will send out a Sign-Up Genius for parents to choose times. The signups will close on November 4.
- J. Information regarding Halloween is going home on Thursday. The parade will be outside at 1:30PM (weather permitting). No masks or scary costumes permitted. Parents will stand on the concrete side and fan out the length of the sidewalk. Each teacher will have a sign designating their homeroom. Fifth grade has a special party that same day in the cafeteria. The PTO has activities planned.
- K. Interims go home tomorrow 10/10 for all grades but Kindergarten.
- L. Friday 10/11 is early dismissal for Teacher Inservice and schools will be closed on Monday 10/14.

II. Board Updates:

A. **Board Report:**

- 1. Welcome back to the new school year! We have had a busy, but good start to our school.
- 2. We have made the following purchases so far to benefit the school: new umbrellas to be used for the bus helpers, snacks and waters for the SNAP program afterschool, basketballs for the new Champs Club (Thank you card in appreciation received), and also jars for the entire 4th grade to use for their science experiment.

3. We are being asked to provide some volunteers in the library for the book fair again this year. A signup genius will be sent out. We will provide funds for the \$5 and under table for students in need.
4. We were asked to provide snacks and water for the Reading Rocks Project to the students who had participated. It will be held October 29.
5. There has been contact with the state, the Superintendent and the School Board regarding Background Checks for Parent Volunteers. It was explained that we, as the PTO, are not considered volunteers of the school. We are a separate entity. Volunteers of the school are typically educational volunteers (in a classroom). These volunteers would be in the school for 20 or more hours a month. We may discuss our options. Board members and committee chairs (due to the amount of time they spend in the school) may need to get background checks/ fingerprints. They are good for 90 days and are \$40 each time. We would need to renew it throughout the year. We will vote on this in November.

B. Treasurer's Report:

1. Our current balance is \$14,215.
2. We have a lot of transactions going on right now (Disney on Ice tickets, assemblies).
3. Our money coming in right now is from memberships, spirit wear sales and the Boosterthon which brought in \$6,160 so far with more to come this week.
4. We also have put some money out for the Welcome Back Lunch for the teachers and for the membership gift notepads.

III. Committee Reports:

A. Communications

1. The October Newsletter has been sent out and posted on the website.
2. All current fundraisers have been uploaded to the website.
3. Reminders for events have been set on Facebook and using Remind texting.

B. Student Recognition

1. The first Spotlight Student Ice Cream Party was held.
2. Students received a coupon for "One Free Ranger Meal" from Texas Roadhouse in the envelope of student prizes from the school.

C. School Store

1. The first school store dates for the year are October 9 (K-2) and October 16 (3-5).
2. Items are \$1-\$2. Please do not send students in with no more than \$5. We are no longer accepting Bulldog Bucks.

D. Yearbook

E. Fundraising

1. Holiday Photo Event is set for October 19 at Lavender on the Bryn. There will be two photographers and Alicia from Glow Studios will decide what is the best spot to set up each. They may not be the same background so the background you get depends on if you signed up for photographer 1 or photographer 2. Families can not choose on site unless there is an opening with the photographer shooting at that area. The farm was VERY clear that families must not run, jump through, pick, or really touch the lavender, or

touch, hang on the barn doors. I was thinking we could make a “know before you go” type letter stating that, and we can reiterate at check in. At present, we have 6 time slots remaining.

2. We will need 2-3 PTO volunteers to help with checking people in and to man the raffle table at the Photo Event. We are hoping to have 2-3 raffle items finalized by Wednesday this week. Last year we did a Nintendo Switch, an autographed Kyle Schwarber jersey and Glow Studios donated a private photo session. We are open to ideas for the raffle this year. Kyle Schwarber has signed some stuff again this year, so we have those items and we could do a Nintendo Switch again, or Apple AirPods were suggested. All ideas are welcome. We will have a table set up for check in and raffles.
3. We are currently awaiting Texas Roadhouse Dine & Donate dates.
4. We will be selling Double Good Popcorn starting November 3.
5. We will be selling Panzarottis in October to be delivered in December.

F. Helping Hands

1. We have been in contact with the counselors regarding any needs (school supplies, Halloween costumes) and will prepare for the Giving Tree in November.

G. Staff Appreciation

1. The Welcome Back Luncheon for teachers went very well.
2. We honored custodial staff on National Custodian Appreciation Day with mini trash cans filled with candy and gift cards.

H. Holiday Shop

1. Our Holiday Shop is set for December 4th and will be held in the cafeteria.
2. Supplies have been ordered and are on their way.

I. Bingo Night

J. Membership

1. We currently have 78 voting members and 27 information-only members for the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Membership gifts were notepads that are being sent home on Wednesday 10/9.

K. Council of Schools

1. The school is working on a new policy for lunch balances; children will not be able to participate in certain school events if they have an overdue balance for lunch.
2. Next school year's start date is being looked at; this year's Friday start date was not well received.
3. Fundraiser Suggestion: Cinder Bar has a fundraiser program that offers you more than one night to attend. It is very flexible.

L. 5th Grade-

1. Meeting will be held directly following the PTO meeting.

M. Spirit Wear

1. Our first Spirit Wear Sale was a success. Orders were due at the end of September and a 3 week turnaround is expected.
2. This year, bling wear was offered as a separate order from a separate vendor.
3. If you need anything, please send in for it.

N. Fun Run

O. Parent Child Events

IV. New Business

V. Open Floor:

- A question was raised about the number of fundraisers and what they are being used for.
- A request was made for a Best Friend/Someone Special dance. It was discussed that this is a tentatively planned event that would require many volunteers in order to happen.

Meeting began 7:03 PM

Meeting ended 7:44 PM

**Our Next General Meeting is November 12, 2024
Union Valley Library @ 7:00 PM**