

Eagle River Optional
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2014

In Attendance:

Nicole Sommerville (Principal), Dr. Long (K/1), Mrs. Dolan (1/2), Mr. Long (3/4), Mrs. Spain (5/6), Kaleigh Wotring (co-chair), Alexis Kallen (co-chair), Lisa Norbert (secretary), Rosanna Lee (Treasurer) Robin Gray (Co-treasurer), Nicole Mercer (steering committee member), Felicia Hanna (steering committee member), Codie Costello (steering committee member), Katie Hoover, Laura Simkins

Called to order:

Kaleigh called the meeting to order at 5:15pm at Pizza Man.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes from the July 15, 2014 (summer) steering committee meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Robin will be the treasurer while Rosanna has her baby in September.
2. Teachers/Parents can submit receipts online via a link on the Optional web-site.
 - Go to <http://eagleriveroptional.org/expense-form.html> , take a picture of the receipt with your phone, answer a few questions about the expense and upload a picture of the receipt.

New Business:

1. Introduced the new members of the steering committee to the group.
2. Garden/Potluck (Felicia/Nicole Mercer)
 - a) Excited that many new parents are volunteering.
 - b) Felicia and Nicole love knowing which parents to expect for each event and that Codie can e-mail a report from Volunteer Spot to them prior to each event.
 - c) September 5th (potato), 9th (root vegetables) and 10th are harvesting days for the garden from 9-11:30am. September 11th each class will be making a soup for the potluck later that evening from 6:30-8pm
3. Halloween Carnival - Saturday, October 25th
 - a) PTA event that we share organizing; this year's theme is "Haunted Egypt".
 - b) Can sign-up to help organize at the PTA Ice Cream Social-Tues, 9/9 @ 4-5:30pm
 - c) We will use Volunteer Spot and boards to ask for volunteers.
 - d) Need to identify tasks for volunteers (i.e. collect candy, decorations, prizes, etc..)
 - e) PTA contact is Mrs. Sommerville until PTA has a sub-committee head.
4. Parent Information Night (PIN)
 - a) Good feedback from the parents and teachers on the flow, format and informational packets provided.

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5. Alaska Junior Theater (AJT) @ PAC (play field trips)
 - a) We reserve and pay in advance for every student in the Optional program to attend AJT plays. There are no refunds if a child is sick, on vacation or doesn't attend.
 - b) We are collecting money in advance; this will ease the burden on the teachers, treasurer and parents over the school year.
 - c) Teachers to forward bills to the treasurer for payment vs. paying out of pocket.
 - d) Teachers will handle their own permission slips.
 - e) Parents need to fill out permission slips for each child to attend.
 - f) The program lost about \$1,000 last year due to lack of payment on field trips.

6. ER High School Field Trip (DATE CHANGE to Friday, Sept. 26th)
 - a) Kaleigh will contact Melissa at ERHS with questions.
 - b) Need clear expectations, roles of parents/teachers and activities.
 - c) Events last year too advanced for the fall event; needs to be simple/fun get to know you activities (our kids are still getting to know one another); big groups vs. small groups; identify what we want kids to get from this event.
 - d) Tie-dye t-shirts... new color this year and a few extras.
 - e) Driver forms: teachers want a copy of student agreement forms for liability.

7. Craft Day – Friday, Dec. 12th (am) and Wednesday, Dec. 17th (am)
 - a) Katie Hoover is the sub-committee head.
 - b) Discussed ideas of crafts vs. learning a new skill (sewing).
 - c) Community gift (pillows for soldiers overseas)

8. Fundraising (2 events)
 - a) Rosanna Lee is the sub-committee head.
 - b) Kids Kreations (due in October)
 - Teachers will do in class with students (makes nice gifts)
 - Blank ones will come home, if siblings want to submit art to purchase.
 - c) Art Auction with spring potluck (in April/May).

9. Principal Sommerville's Report
 - a) Mrs. Proudfoot is a new counselor paid through a grant by the military and can work with all the children in ER elementary.
 - b) ASD having informational sessions to discuss moving 6th grade to middle schools; similar to Mirror Lake in ER.
 - c) Changing SBA testing to AMP test.

The meeting ended at 7pm.