



Union Valley Elementary PTO

General Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Union Valley Library

I. Principal's Report:

- A. In January, there are not as many breaks in school compared to November and December, so it is a great time of year to renew and reset good habits for school. Sometimes during the holiday season, bedtime and school routines change, so we encourage students and families to reestablish good school routines in January. This may include checking student planners, setting up a place at home to complete work and store school items, or returning to an earlier bedtime and wake time.
- B. In an effort to renew good habits for school in January, meetings were held to review school rules and behavior policies with students in grades 3-5. In this meeting, we reviewed our school PAWS policy, our HIB policy and kindness in general. We asked students to think about what they want their school to look like and to act in a way that supports that. We discussed treating others how you would want to be treated, how to show and earn respect, and how that looks in the classroom. We asked students to recognize how clean our school is and to take pride in it and to treat it how they would want their home to look.
- C. The 5th Grade Yearbook Cover Contest has concluded. Fifth grade students were given this year's yearbook theme- "Union Valley Sticks Together" and submitted designs. The entire staff voted on entries and the winners for the front and back cover of the yearbook were selected. The winners will be announced to students on Friday January 17.
- D. On Wednesday January 15, we will hold a BMX Anti-Bullying assembly for Grades K-5. This is the first time we are hosting this assembly and we welcome feedback from students.
- E. Our instrumental music students will attend the Board of Education Meeting on January 27 at 7:00PM. Along with their director, Mr. O'Brien, the students will be recognized and honored as a way to highlight a positive program in our school.
- F. Our 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Mulloy, applied for and received a grant for a program. The event is themed "Let's Glow with Learning" and will be held in the evening (6:15-8:00) on January 28 for students in Grades 3, 4, and 5. This is a parent and student event which will focus on reading, math and science. Activities will include escape rooms and other fun glow-themed learning opportunities.
- G. On February 4, 2025 students in grades 3 and 5 will take the OLSAT test. This test is an IQ test, and is used as one of the markers in determining eligibility for the Impact program. It is an hour long and will be taken in a student's homeroom classroom. There is no way for students to prepare other than to get a good night's sleep and to have a healthy breakfast.
- H. From January 27-31, Student Council will have a Cereal Drive to benefit the Food Bank of South Jersey. The top donating class will win a prize.

II. Board Updates:

A. Board Report:

- 1. We had a lot of events and fundraisers in the last few months. While it is quiet now, it will soon begin to pick back up again.

B. Treasurer's Report:

1. November and December treasury reports were distributed.
2. Our most recent fundraising profits came in November from the Candy Bar Bingo Night (\$538.26) and in December from the Santa Breakfast (\$684) and Panzarotti sales (\$550). We are still waiting for Disney on Ice.
3. Our most recent outgoing expenses came from assemblies, paying off the spirit wear order as well as for 5th grade events and teacher and student appreciation gifts during the holidays.during holidays

C. Secretary's Report:

1. The November minutes have been uploaded to the website.

III. Committee Reports:

A. Yearbook

1. As mentioned, the entries for the Yearbook Cover Contest were submitted and the winners have been selected. The 2 winners (front and back) will be announced on Friday and will get a treat bag of candy as a congratulations gift.
2. Yearbook Order forms will go out to students on Wednesday January 15. Yearbooks can be ordered online or with the paper form.

B. Fundraising

1. Our current January fundraiser is for Flyers and 76ers Tickets. Different from Disney on Ice group ticket sales, families can select and purchase their own tickets based on where they prefer to sit. The PTO will make \$5 off of each ticket sold.
2. Our upcoming February fundraisers are Texas Roadhouse Dine & Donate on February 17, Joe Corbi's Sale and Valentine Candy Grams.

C. Council of Schools

1. Mr. Bilodeau announced the results of the school board elections held in November and that 2 new board members would be appointed.
2. There were 3 school board members present at the Council of Schools Meeting- Mrs. Gilch, Mr. Gibbons and Ms. Johnson.
3. They spoke about the results of the survey sent out regarding school attendance. They found there was a gap between the number of absences parents thought were allowed and the number of absences actually allowed per policy.

D. Spirit Wear

1. Nothing to report

E. Staff Appreciation

1. There are no current Staff Appreciation events.
2. Upcoming Staff Appreciation Events for February are for the School Counselor and School Resource Officer.

F. Student Recognition

1. The Student Spotlight Celebrations have been a success. Students have been enjoying the popsicles and playing Bingo. They seem engaged and excited.

G. School Store

1. Our school store for grades K-2 was held on January 8 and brought in \$523.
2. Our school store for grades 3-5 will be held on January 22. More supplies have been ordered in preparation.

H. Helping Hands

1. The Giving Tree was a huge success. Our UV Community of kids and families is awesome. We took the suggestion to use a Google Form for sign ups and we had 135 kids sign up to take a tag, many of which signed up for more than one tag. With that, we probably had about 150 gifts donated. From that pile, Mrs. Marchesani was able to fulfill wish lists for students within our school and their families. We donated our excess toys (which was 3 carloads) to the Unforgotten Haven in Blackwood. They had a Winter Wonderland Toy Drive that they allowed families in need to shop from. Any toys not taken during that drive are used throughout the year to comfort children and families escaping domestic violence situations. The Unforgotten Haven members were extremely grateful for our donation and gave our school a nice recognition on Facebook.
2. Our Food Drive in December brought in a lot of food which was also donated to the Unforgotten Haven.

I. Holiday Shop

1. The company has not deposited our check or let us know how much money came in.

J. Bingo Night

1. Our 1st Bingo Night was held on November 22 and our 2nd was held on January 10. Both were very successful events. Many kids and their families attended. The kids seem to love them and have a lot of fun.
2. Kudos to Mrs. Federline who runs calling the numbers and to all of the staff members who came out to help. We also received a lot of donated items from families and staff and are appreciative.

K. 5th Grade

1. Our next event is in February and is the Ice Cream Social. Shop Rite is an event sponsor and will donate the ice cream and water ice.
2. A meeting will be held after the general meeting for all 5th grade parents.

IV. Open Floor:

- A. A question was raised about an email that was received as a BCC with board members copied. It was explained that prior to meetings, an email is sent to all Committee Chair members so they can report any agenda items for the meeting, especially in a case if they are unable to attend.
- B. The absence from meetings of current committee chairs was brought to attention and the question was raised on attendance policies for committee chairs. It was explained that if committee chairs missed more than 5 meetings, they could remain the chair for the remainder of the school year, but were ineligible to serve as a chair the following year.
- C. A question was raised about how long PTO board members could serve in their position. It was explained that board positions could be served for two years.

Meeting began: 7:04

Meeting ended: 7:22

Our Next General Meeting is February 11, 2025 in the Union Valley Library @ 7:00 PM