# Minnewashta Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
# January 11, 2022

**Present:** Heidi Post, Cindy Andress, Michelle Le, Tara Pitkin, Sarah Wexler, Brittany Yamauchi, Barb Seifert, Andi Zellmer, Sarah Sirna, Anjuli Glaza, Laura Richardson, Jill Howe, Eric Lockovitch, Colleen Lockovitch

**Absent:** Tiffany Boyer, Gretchen Padget, Eileen Anderson, Rachel Turnbull

Heidi Post called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

1. **Welcome and Introductions, Heidi Post, President:**
   - Motion to approve November 2021 PTO minutes. Motion approved.

2. **Parent Presentation, Eric Lockovitch – Technology and the New Education Plan Utilizing iPad Technology in Grades K-3:**
   - Eric is concerned with the amount of technology students use in class. He believes parents in general are concerned.
   - Referenced the survey monkey done last year – 40% who responded to survey are concerned with the amount of technology used in classrooms.
   - Eric requested assistance from the PTO in reaching out to parents at Minnewashta for feedback.
   - Heidi stated the PTO represents all the families of Minnewashta and is not able to declare their position on this.
   - Sarah Sirna advised the group that guidance will be coming out from the Department of Education that we assume will define how technology is to be used in the future.
   - Cindy suggested putting a request on facebook so parents can connect with Eric.
   - Cindy mentioned there are district requirements for technology that are followed.
   - Heidi will bring the topic up tomorrow at the District Leadership Meeting to see if this has come up in other schools. If not, then the PTO will connect with Eric to assist him in getting feedback from other parents.

3. **VP Report, Tara Pitkin and Michelle Le:**
   - Approved: Request from Annie for Speech – Language Screening Tool – to be used for English and Spanish
     - Provides greater information by providing a student profile, the tool assesses language skills in social context, and is an extra screening tool to use in addition to their current tools.
     - Kit is $255
   - Year Book Update
     - Working on updating student class photos
   - Heidi suggested doing a 5th grade memory book
   - Book fair
     - Gretchen sent out check. Total was $15,000. Books were bought for the Port. Estimated balance is expected be around $8,500.

- Next book fair is scheduled for March – the exact dates and details will be worked out and presented in February meeting.
- Any changes made will be communicated in the newsletter.

4. **Fundraising, Barb Seifert and Andi Zellmer:**
   - No updates at this time.

5. **Volunteer Coordinator, Brittany Yamauchi:**
   - Imagination Fair – Brittany to reach out to Melissa Townhall to see if she's interested in leading this year and if we can postpone to the Spring.
   - Family Service Night – email sent to see if there's interest in having it outside.
   - Spring Event – discuss in February/March to have an event outside.

6. **Treasurer Report, Heidi Post:**
   - Heidi reviewed the November-December 2021 Report.
   - Any remaining balance can be put towards playground enhancements or into the trust.
   - Extend enrichment requests to April/May.

7. **Teacher Appreciation, Laura Richardson:**
   - December Staff Appreciation – Chipotle lunch and individual water bottles with handwritten messages on each. Feedback was very positive.
   - Gretchen to talk to MMW treasurer regarding Venmo use for parents to donate to Teacher Appreciation Events
   - January Appreciation – Heidi will connect with Laura this week to discuss further.
   - Para-Professional Appreciation Week is January 25 – 28

8. **Principals Report, Cindy Andress:**
   - 350 Volunteers in the building since the 1st quarter
   - Vaccination records are being merged with student data – 56% of students are vaccinated
   - Staffing is very challenging during this time
   - Teachers are doing everything they can to keep kids in school
   - Students are learning and parents feel it's important for kids to be in school
   - Consider having parent volunteers to help with student pick-up and drop-off process

9. **President's Report, Heidi Post:**
   - District Leadership Meeting – No Updates, Scheduled for 1/12
   - Pictures & Video from Sara Becher – PTO's Contribution for Plank Walk and Monkey Bar – Heidi will send out to group
   - Review of Board Opportunities for 2022-2023:
     - Consider Co-Vice President
     - Brittany – consider person to work
     - Andi – consider person to work
     - Next meeting – February 15, 2022 – Heidi will send meeting agenda item requests on Monday and will get agenda out on Tuesday.