

January 12, 2016

Exec:

Tony needs a PTO rep for the kindergarten registration night on January 21. Tim and Nancy are both available.

Susan Bergman, the district math coordinator is willing to talk at an upcoming meeting.

Kathy Ecker would like to be on agenda next month to talk about Title I and give a parent survey.

Meeting was called to order by PTO President, Tim Halls.

Dr. Arnold:

- Watch for information on Leadership Day at Avery in the spring.
- Avery is revisiting the school mission and vision statement. Email Dr. Arnold if you'd like to be a part of this committee.
- Mr. Barbe is back at school. His classroom has traded places with the math intervention room.

President Tim Halls update:

- Budget update: school picnic and fall festival both brought in more money than planned, which together with the highly successful PTO dues program allowed us to give \$13,000 to the teachers for use in their classrooms.
- Based on a recommendation by Mr. Ball and a teacher committee, Kelly Dunsford wrote an excellent grant application to the WGSD Foundation for an outdoor butterfly garden. The \$919 grant was approved and construction of the garden will happen this spring.
- The front yard master plan has not yet been fully finished. The front yard committee has over \$15,000 to complete the next phase (subject to the success of the Avery Auction) and will be meeting soon to prioritize how the money will be spent. NOTE: Families can still buy a paver to help fund the rest of this project!!
- Playground has a plan for finishing. They are just waiting until the money comes in from the auction to move forward.
- Families should continue to participate in the dine out nights (DQ, Fuzzy's). In addition, DQ has been particularly generous to Avery, so everyone is encouraged to frequent the Webster DQ as much as possible.

Susan TeStroete on the Escrip fundraiser:

- There are two ways to raise money.
 1. The escrip card from Schnucks: parents can pick up a card from the Schnucks customer service counter and register it online. Every time you shop at any Schnucks you swipe the card and Avery gets 3% of what you spent.

2. Online shopping via escrip's Forget Me Not Program. Parents can sign up online and when they shop at a great variety of retailers (Amazon, Target, Home Depot, Gap, Kohls, etc) Avery gets a percentage of what they spent. It's a great way to raise money for Avery without spending any extra money!
3. A flyer will be sent home in All Star News this week. It was also suggested that teachers could attach the flyer in their classroom newsletters. Escrip cards and flyers will also be handed out on kindergarten night on Jan. 21st.
4. **Follow Up:** The Exec Board should coordinate with Susan on how best to communicate the benefits of escrip to the Avery Community.

Upcoming Events:

- January 29th: Bingo Night, 6:30pm. This is a fun, free family night for Avery families. Pizza will be sold by the slice. Dr. Arnold noted that a clean-up crew is needed because we are not hiring the custodians for the night. Contact Sally Kilbride with questions sallykilbride@yahoo.com.
- February 6th: The Avery Auction. The committee really needs donations. Dr. Arnold suggested having parent volunteers handing out flyers requesting gift cards and other donations at the front and back doors at dismissals. Suggestions for next year: have a paper in the beginning of the year packet asking what resources parents have. Any donation is welcome! Examples are gift cards, themed baskets, your skills and time (plumbing services, teaching a group of kids knitting, tutoring, etc). Parents are encouraged to think about connections they have with people and businesses that could make donations.
- March 2nd: Blood Drive at Avery
- March 31st: Family Book Club night, 6:00.

Questions/Comments:

- Communication committee from last year decided that they wanted the online newsletter with easier to access links. This has been implemented and has been received positively. There is a concern that many people are not reading the All Star News in the emails.
- It was suggested to try the School Reach text option and to use it more often to remind parents of upcoming events. Dr. Arnold is going to send out a text this week to test it out.
- It was suggested to change the All Start News release to Wednesday to increase the amount of parents who read it.
- Front yard looks amazing! The letters for the Avery elementary sign are up. Next phase to likely include additional paving (under bike racks and the northern side of the front walk) and additional stone benches are the next phase.

Next meeting: February 9th.