

## September 8, 2015

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

Introduction of PTO Executive Board: President: Tim Halls ([thalls@montagroup.com](mailto:thalls@montagroup.com)), Vice President: Christy Vogl ([Christy.vogl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Christy.vogl@sbcglobal.net)), Treasurer: Toni Walters ([toni.walters@gmail.com](mailto:toni.walters@gmail.com)), Secretary: Nancy Pearl ([nancy\\_pearl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nancy_pearl@sbcglobal.net))

Volunteer Opportunities contact Christy Vogl ([Christy.vogl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Christy.vogl@sbcglobal.net)) if you can help:

- One chair position is still open: staff appreciation week in the spring. The chair will plan the activities for the week with an \$1100 budget.
- Committee members are needed for the following:
  - Fall Festival on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sign-up will be sent out soon
  - playground committee
  - auction and trivia night on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>
  - family book club on March 31<sup>st</sup> to plan activities
  - members needed for communication committee

### Upcoming PTO Activities

- Progressive Dinner on September 19<sup>th</sup>. With 54 people attending this year the event is sold out unless another host is added. Please contact Heather Miller ([heathernicorn@yahoo.com](mailto:heathernicorn@yahoo.com)) if you'd like to be involved. This is a great community-building event. It is \$45/person and runs from 6-10pm.
- First Fun Friday Parent Coffee on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8am on the front lawn. There will also be a ribbon cutting for completion of the first phase of the front lawn facelift.
- Fall Festival on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Look for a volunteer sign-up soon. The committee is collecting upcycled small toys for use as prizes. Please drop off donations at 765 Greeley Ave. There is a bin on the front porch behind the mailbox, please drop off toys there. Contact Samanda Rossi ([samadarossi@gmail.com](mailto:samadarossi@gmail.com)) with questions about Fall Festival.

### Playground Upgrade

- Phase one on the lower playground is complete.
- The wooden structure on upper playground was removed this summer.
- \$22,000 will allow us to complete phase II. Due to funding constraints phase II will not be installed until after the auction, hopefully over spring break.
- Contact Mike Hulsizer ([hulsizer@webster.edu](mailto:hulsizer@webster.edu)) with questions about the playground.

### Buzzbook

- Buzzbook will be out in the next couple of weeks. There will be advertising in the buzz book this year. It will be free and emailed out to parents in a PDF.
- It was suggested that there could be a note or asterisk by a child's name noting if their parent had included an advertisement, encouraging parents to support local business.
- Contact Mike Hulsizer ([hulsizer@webster.edu](mailto:hulsizer@webster.edu)) with buzz book questions.

### Update on Front Yard Facelift – Annie Holder

- Work on Phase I of the Front Yard face lift is in full swing. When completed, Phase One will include extensive walkways and patios of permeable pavers extending from the front walk to the south side of the front yard. There will be a large, C-shaped seating wall on the southeast corner of the yard, lettered with the words Avery Elementary, and several stone benches. Pending sale of additional pavers, there will also be mulching and native plantings under the pin oaks. Phase II includes an additional 15 stone benches to facilitate outdoor

classrooms, plus paver walkways north of the front walk and around the bike rack and additional landscaping. To date, \$60,000 has been raised through the sale of pavers, a \$10,000 allocation from last year's auction proceeds and an anonymous donor who is matching \$2 for every \$1 raised from paver sales. To fully complete the project will likely cost an additional \$30,000, so sales of engraved pavers will continue through the school year. A new program for families to purchase an engraved stone bench (\$1,600) will be unveiled soon. A grade-level competition for purchasing benches for each class is also being discussed. Those interested in purchasing a paver or a bench can contact Annie Holder ([annieholder@gmail.com](mailto:annieholder@gmail.com)) or Callie Halls, or obtain a form from the school office.

#### Presentation of 2015/2016 PTO Budget – Toni Walters

- Only changed a little bit since the one that was sent home earlier in the year.
- We plan to be transparent with the budget at every meeting.
- A question was asked about funding for Camp Wyman. Students go to camp in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but the elementary schools subsidize the costs. The PTO budget allocated \$4,500 (same as last year) to allow Dr. Arnold to hand out “scholarships” for needy families, but the majority of the funds go towards buying down the cost of camp for all campers
- Question about PD money in budget. Answer: it is for the administrators. It was previously \$2000. Now \$500 is in the budget for administrators.
- Budget was approved and can be found on PTO Website.

#### Discussion of PTO Dues – Tim Halls and Membership

- Any money raised from PTO dues will go directly to the teachers for use in the classroom. A committee of teachers and administrators will determine the best way to distribute it.
- Encourage 100% participation whether you're donating \$3 or \$300 it helps!
- Paying electronically is being investigated for next year
- Have a booth at Fall Festival to promote the PTO dues

#### Principal update from Dr. Arnold

- Very proud of our students. Test scores continue to go up on the MAP tests. Over the past 12 years we have the highest test scores we've ever had. Teachers and students are working really hard. We're up about 20 points from 5 years ago. The work students are doing in the classroom predicts how the students do on the MAP test.
- Three student leaders will be going to Tantara to present to MO school board association to share Avery's data. Students are shining in their leadership opportunities.

#### Questions/Comments from the Membership

- Should the PTO Facebook page change format to be more of a community connect page?
- Movie night – has been cancelled for the year. Safety is a concern.
- Avery Play is looking for new talent. It's a play that parents perform in. Date is TBA, probably in the spring.
- Upcycled book fair – last call for books. They will be sorted for teachers to choose from. The rest will be donated to the fall festival. If questions contact Kelly Dunsford ([kellydunsford1@hotmail.com](mailto:kellydunsford1@hotmail.com))
- Auction is the largest fundraiser. More volunteers are needed to help. Next auction planning meeting is Sept 16<sup>th</sup> at Annie Holder's ([annieholder@gmail.com](mailto:annieholder@gmail.com)) house at 7pm.

#### **Next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Library.**

- **John Simpson and Tim Brown will be presenting information on the new report cards.**