

PTO Agenda
Thursday, November 5, 2015
6:30pm, ERS Library

President: The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm; October minutes were approved.

Guest Speakers: Brenda Wright reported on library visits done by a team of staff/parents. She shared photos of the six school libraries visited and summarized findings.

- **Tables:** Every library visited had tables for workspace.
- **Read aloud areas:** These spaces are present in all libraries visited. They were separate areas, round spaces, tiered with steps, and had a cozy feeling. Kirkwood's area has a sound dome to magnify voices. *Goal:* Make ERS read aloud space its own area and cozy.
- **Shelving:** Shelving is our library's biggest need. Current shelving is incomplete in areas, too shallow to hold books, and bent/broken. Other libraries had both wall shelves and wheeled shelves that allow flexibility to create space when it is needed.
- **Cozy Spaces:** All libraries incorporated cozy spaces with chairs, pillows, and/or bean bags. Non-traditional seating allows children to spread out during group work.
- A message heard from all libraries is that when people move to an area, they shop for a school. If we want people to move to Webster/ERS, we need a library that will attract them.
- It was suggested that we put out an RFP for architects to give ideas of how to redesign space and work up a bid so that we know what kind of funds are needed. For perspective, Kirkwood had a \$1 million bond to work with for the library redesign.
- A long-term plan needs to be drafted and then timeframe worked up for changes. Three years max was suggested for a project in order not to lose momentum.
- Redesign discussion included requests for color and preservation of the beautiful ceilings.
- **Next steps:** Brenda Wright will set a date for a committee meeting and advertise to increase committee membership. The committee will draft a priority list, and the PTO will put out word for parents who can help with redesign.
- **Goal:** Complete above tasks by winter break and have a plan to display at Trivia Night.

Vice Presidents:

- **Boxtops:** Next store is open Nov 12-13 at 8:10am
- **Teacher Conference dinners:** Meals are all set; sign-ups happened via Google doc
- **Book Fair:** Open the week of Nov 9.
- **Dinner & a Movie:** Looking for spring movie suggestions
- **Giving Studio:** Orders are being taken over next few weeks; corporate orders are available; products will be on display during conferences and volunteers are needed to help.
- **Facebook page:** 203 members
- **PTO webpage:** The website is live and linked from the ERS webpage. It includes a calendar, forms, and googledocs. We are waiting for media clearance for pictures.
- **Trivia Night:** A Chair is still needed. The date/location are set; question-writers and MC are secured; and co-chairs from last year will meet on 11/9 to figure out how to divide responsibilities. More volunteers are needed!
- **Jag Gear:** New logo is being finalized; goal is to have spirit wear available for purchase online by holidays.

Treasurer:

- **Balance:** \$12,447 in the account
- **Donation Update:** \$1,930 received in donations in lieu of fundraisers, which is about \$400 behind from last year; tax donation letters will be mailed out
- A suggestion was made to put note on FB to remember ERS PTO in gift-giving; let people know we're behind on donations this year.

Principal & Faculty Report – Dr. Wuch

- Kindergarten transition is complete.
- **Staffing:** Monica Reed was hired as the new aid and will serve as 1st/2nd grade math interventionist. Mrs. Fuller is the kindergarten interventionist in the afternoon.
- **Training:** A Social Justice training was held for staff. One outcome is that to be inclusive, all people working in the building will be referred to as staff.
- **Yearbook:** The Yearbook is in need of a volunteer. Lisa Eckert and Kelly Lee are working on it this year, but it will become a PTO committee next year.
- **PTO Communications:** Dr. Wuch has received requests to have PTO communication come from sources other than Facebook because not all families are on social media. The website is now available, linked from ERS page, but Dr. Wuch will also include a "PTO News" section for the Wed email. PTO info should be sent to Lisa by Tuesday morning for the Wednesday emails; info can also be included in the Sunday Scoop.
- **WGSD Foundation Grants:** Applications are open until winter break. Dr. Wuch asked parents to brainstorm ideas and send them to the PTO.
- **Teacher Conferences:** The progress report is new to everyone, and a curriculum specialist from Central Office will be available for questions.

Old Business:

- **Babysitters:** There will be two babysitters from this point forward during PTO meetings.

New Business:

- **WG Foundation:** Teacher Tribute letters will be distributed soon (donation in lieu of teacher gift); Food for Thought will happen 1/31 at Cyrano's.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Next Meeting: January 7, 2015 (6:30pm, ERS Library)