

PTO Minutes
Thursday, Sept 7, 2017
6:30pm, ERS Library

President: Meeting brought to order at 6:31pm

Teresa welcomed everyone, introduced the board, and provided some background on the PTO. She stressed that PTO is about more than fundraising – it is about creating a community! Attendees introduced themselves as well. May minutes were approved.

Vice Presidents

16 committees serve throughout the year to coordinate fundraising, activities, and service.

- **Cardinals Calendar (Jackie Charlot, chair)** – This is one of 4 fundraisers for the year and is a new endeavor for us. Calendars cost \$15, and PTO keeps \$7. At 50 calendar sales, the PTO receives ticket vouchers that can be raffled off at PTO events. A flyer will go home in September; order forms will be distributed in October and are due back in November. Orders will be received in time for the holidays.
- **Box Tops (Ruby, chair)** – All classrooms should have boxtop collection boxes. Boxtops are found on a number of items, and a list is posted on the PTO FB page. Parents can send in unexpired boxtops throughout the year, and the class with the most earns a celebration at the end of the year. We have about \$70 still coming to PTO from last year’s boxtops that were submitted over the summer. Dr. Wuch requested the Chair a letter explaining the boxtops program, which she will send to staff.
- **Coffee Committee (next event, 9/29)** – Each month, the PTO provides free coffee in the circle drive during drop-off to encourage parents to hang out and build community. The next coffee morning 9/29 (Friday) at 8am. There are three people on the committee, but more are always welcome.
- **Foundation Liaison** – The Webster Groves School District Foundation (WGSD) provides grants to teachers, PTO, and parents to implement programs in the schools. The Ivory Crockett Run for Webster (10/21/17) at 8:30am. This is a 5K and 100-yard dash for kids, followed by a pancake breakfast. Fredbird will be there! A link to the event is on the PTO website. The Foundation is looking for people to read through and score grants.
- **Parent to Parent Outreach** – This is a newly structured committee that makes calls to incoming families over the summer and during the year and distributes “Welcome to ERS” yard signs. Additional ideas are welcome.
- **Playground, Landscaping and Maintenance (Jessica Griffin, chair)** – Summer cleanup included weeding and planting of new flowers. A fall landscape cleanup is planned. The Committee is coordinating with Coach Cashel to recruit the WGHS soccer team to spread mulch (as part of their required service hours) on 10/13 or 10/14. The Committee will look at planning new flowers and is looking for cost-effective ways to do so. Volunteers are need.
- **Room Parent Coordinator (Jessica Griffin, chair)** – The goal is 4-5 room parents/ classroom, each of which will lead planning of one party. Mrs. LeMieux’s class (2nd grade) is in need of volunteers.
- **Buzz Book (Cindy Norton, chair)** – Contact information was pulled from SIS and parents are asked to confirm accuracy. The book will be distributed via email; options are being explored for more cost-effective printing. A discussion was held about cost of printed Buzz Books. At the May PTO

meeting, it was voted to charge \$5/book, with an income of \$250 expected and outgoing printing costs of \$165 expected; these were accounted for in the budget. However, when Buzz Book information went out to parents, cost for hard copies was not mentioned. Ideas were discussed about how to inexpensively print the 120 hard copies that were requested. Dr. Wuch will look into using the printing center at the HS vs. printing in-house. It was emphasized that next year, the cost for a printed copy must be marketed.

- **Jump Start Conference Dinners (Emily McEneny, Chair)** – Meals went well, and there are lots of volunteers. Night #1 spent \$75 on chicken nuggets from Chick Filet, and Chick Filet matched the order. Volunteers filled in with sides and desserts. Night #2 was a potluck provided for by the volunteers. Ideas for spring dinners are being discussed, with an effort to be conscious of food allergies and vegetarian/vegan diets.
- **Septemberfest (Suzie Kisslinger, Chair) – 9/14/17. 5:30-7:30pm on the South Lawn.** This is a great time to catch up with old friends and meet new families. Families should bring chairs and blankets. They can bring dinner or purchase food from the food trucks that will be present: Slide Piece, Curbside Cookery, and Destination Dessert. Info is on the ERS Facebook page.
- **Trunk or Treat (Teresa Herrel, Chair) – 10/20/17** Families can decorate cars and give out candy (provided for by donations) or just come and trick-or-treat. This is limited to only ERS families (including siblings) due to space and candy limitations.
- **Trivia Night (Mel Johnson and Teresa Herrel, co-chairs) – 3/3/18 at St. Elizabeth's of Hungary** This is our biggest fundraiser; last year it raised more than \$25,000! The first planning meeting is at ERS Library on Oct 4 at 6:30pm.

Treasurer

- FY starts on 6/1 and runs through 5/30.
- Leftover balance was \$36,920.90
- Dr. Retzlaff's retirement gift – Weestories bags (books with multicultural characters) with nameplates indicating that they were donated in her honor were purchased. They will be available in the library for families to check-out. Check-out details are forthcoming.
- Miscellaneous expense is for PTO discretionary funding and will be split out (e.g. coffee committee)
- Reproduction/printing costs are budgeted for \$1100. Dr. Wuch will look at how this breaks out.
- The PTO passed its audit and findings will be put on the PTO website.

New Business:

- **PTO budget addendum** – Two years ago, it was voted that the PTO would sponsor a 3-year library project. Phase I was redesign; half of costs were paid in 2015-16, half paid in 2016-2017. Phase II cost \$14K, \$12K of which was paid in 2016-2017 and the remaining \$2,605.06 will be paid in 2017-2018; this was voted on tonight (and approved) because the balance will be paid in the new fiscal year. Remaining cost for 2017-2018 is for soft seating and mobile shelving (voted on in May 2017).
- **EScrips cards** – A portion of what people spend at Schnucks is donated to the PTO. Cards are available from the PTO and must be registered before first use. The card needs to be scanned before your order is totaled.

School Report

- First grade teachers in attendance were Carrie Sachtleben, Daylen Griggs, Mary Eaton and Mrs. Fossil. They reported on the transition from kindergarten to first grade, focusing on increased responsibilities given to the children and encouraging perseverance. Parents can help out by giving their kids more responsibilities at home and letting them know that mistakes are good because we all learn from them. Children make big jumps in reading, so parents are encouraged to read with their kids at home. A big highlight of first grade is hatching chicks in the spring.
- Brenda Wright, the ERS librarian, was in attendance. She thanked the PTO for the new tables and chairs; the first mobile shelf should arrive soon. As of today, total sales revenue from the Eyeseeme book fair was \$3,773.08. ERS earned a donation of \$754.62 of book credits to a school in the city to supply books for students in need. This is the first time Eyeseeme has had a school donate their book credits to another school, so they will keep all the credits together to go to one school. (Usually credits go into a pool for several schools.)
- The 1st graders made the Webster Kirkwood Times for their Harvey fundraiser and raised just over \$1000 to donate to a Houston school district who we have a connection with through Mrs. Pott; the monies will be used to rebuild their classrooms and library.
- Dr. Wuch extended thank yous to the PTO for library , landscape improvements, conference dinners,
- ERS has exactly 400 students. There are 21 classes: 4 sections of K-2 , 3 sections of grades 3-5. There are 313 White students and 87 students of color (21% diversity). Because of classroom numbers in lower grades, an additional room will be needed. The potential solution (less than ideal) is to put the music room on a cart and move the music supplies into the classrooms for music special.
- The spirit store is already over \$1000 in sales after 3 days of being open.
- Christine Keller provided background on the Equity Group activities, including the Weestories kits purchased for parents to check out of the school library. The school also purchased four kits to be used in the building.
- Jaguar PRIDE is in full swing – these are all-school universals.
- Informances are not happening this year; performances will be happening instead. Mrs. M is planning on a performance that includes every grade level.
- Robotics Club is new for 4th and 5th grade, as is the Jaguar Journal for 3rd-5th grade.
- The awning from the WGSD Foundation grant was installed (on the building side near the modular).
- The Paw Print is being sent at 7pm on Wednesdays with the assumption that it might be read more often than when it was sent at 2pm.

Next Meeting: October 5, 6:30pm