

## PTO Executive Committee Meeting

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### General Meeting

- On Friday, March 1st, the PTO hosted a morning coffee meeting in the school cafeteria.
- Mr. Senti demonstrated the new virtual reality goggles and Google Expeditions kit recently purchased by the PTO. All in attendance got a chance to wear the goggles and visit outer space.
- He also talked about several events that the school hosted during Black History Month.
  - The teachers and students loved seeing local blues musician Marquise Knox. Hearing Marquise play and talk about music was a welcome change for the kids. They are used to assemblies that are all about sitting and listening. The whole experience was quite a thrill.
  - Dare to Dream Day, the culmination of Black History Month at Bristol, was underway that morning. The school was full of successful black professionals sharing their stories and their jobs with the students.
- The group played a card game called Buffalo that requires players to think of people or characters who match an ever changing list of descriptions. It's a simple game that pushes players to know and remember figures from all kinds of different backgrounds, it can also help people see just how un-diverse their memory and knowledge can be. Mr. Senti and Dr. Peterson presented and played the game recently as part of an equity exercise with other educators.

### Principal's Report—Bill Senti, Hannah Peterson

- Mr. Senti has enjoyed using the new virtual reality goggles and Google Expeditions with students throughout the school. Most often he's been sharing a tour of the aurora borealis. The reactions from the Kindergarten students were especially dear.
- He hopes to share the VR experience with all grade levels over the spring as the teachers get up to date and learn to use them on their own.
- MAP Testing is coming up. Dates will be shared soon. The administration team is working on a schedule that accommodates all the benchmarks and the screening and the testing so that kids and teachers still have plenty of classroom time.
- A second bid for shade sails over the playground has come in. The new proposal includes more permanent shade structures as well as the sails.
- A new fence has been installed along Gore Avenue. Eventually the retaining wall will need to be repaired also.
- The school is working to get better parking lot lighting. The quick solution, building mounted lights, would not be friendly to the neighbors, so the District is investigating other options to get the lights on the perimeter of the lot to shine back at the school.

### Teacher's Report—Jenny Boyle

- No news to add to Mr. Senti's summary.

## Presidents' Report—Jamie Baley, Mason Alinger

- Regarding a speaker for the May 2nd General PTO meeting:
  - Elyssa Sullivan's Gender Identity contact is not available.
  - Elyssa heard from a parent early in the school year was feeling a bit isolated related to LGBTQ issues. Another parent mentioned to her just how helpful it would be know the right words and to have parenting tips related to all things LGBTQ. If we are able to find someone to speak on this topic, it could be helpful.
  - Mr. Senti can reach out to Safe Connections. There would be cost for the speaker.
  - The Safe Connections program happens in three parts. The first part might be most useful for our school. It is a fact-based presentation on the history of, and terms used for relationship violence.
  - Elyssa suggests opening this speaker up to the other elementary schools.
  
- It's time to nail down who will be on the Board for the 2019-20.
- Available spots need to be advertised.
- Sarah Calame is at the end of her term, we will need an Auditor.
- Nicole Spiegel and Elyssa Sullivan are at the end of their terms, we will need 2nd VPs.
- Corresponding and Recording Secretaries are at the end of their terms.
  
- PTO would like to provide ice cream after MAP testing again this year.
  
- Trivia Night results are looking good.
- Total attendance was 80 people less than last year.
- The current not-yet final total is \$54,481. Expenses still need to be counted. (The total last year was \$59,282.)
- The website cost \$3,000 and it was very, very helpful for the Committee. It's ours for the year (calendar year). And it can be used for many other things like spirit wear, Blacktop Ball, Fall Festival, and Bristol Day at the Ballpark. (The company does charge a small fee for processing credit cards. How much need to be verified with Krysia Audet. That amount could be added back to each transaction.)
  
- The Apple Watch raised \$470.
- The raffles did well.
- The Sonos raised the least.
- The Green Egg went for \$940.
- Fund a cause brought in \$4,200. (This year Mr. Senti will use these dollars to bring in the Black Rep and Metro Theater STL, then the Zoo and the Science Center. All grades will benefit.)
  
- Trivia Night has already been scheduled for next year. It will be the last weekend in January at Ursuline. Renewing schools get first right-of-refusal for the next year's booking. We had to choose between a Friday night or another 4 day weekend, which is how the January date was chosen. Also, March and April were booked. Since most STL trivia happens in February, the Bristol event will be first, and maybe we can catch folks at their most generous.
- The Trivia Committee is in talks about next year. Their intent is to focus more on fun, better attendance, and hopefully lower cost or free drinks. They want to avoid a "bigger and better" mentality.

- A gift is needed for Trivia Committee chairs Taylor Whitaker, Andrea Taylor, and Kryisia Audet. This got missed last year.
- All agreed on gift cards to The Clover & The Bee. Denice Cusumano will take care of it.
- All agreed that a thank you could also be published in the Bulldog Bulletin.
- The group discussed the need for the PTO to send hand written cards, especially thank you notes. This job fall's under the responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary. It has just fallen by the wayside in the last few years. All agree that the PTO needs to make a change and that Thank You's should be a regular agenda item.
- Sign up parties still available through the auction website. They will be, and have been, advertised in the Bulletin.
- For the May meeting, Jaime will invite all the Committee Chairs to celebrate the year with the Board. He is planning drinks at Llewellyn's.
- PTO Calendar for 2019-20 will be due this spring. Mr. Senti can translate this year's calendar to next year unless we know of changes right now.
- There will be a make-up school day for all the snow. The calendar committee is considering when to have it. Their decision will be announced once this upcoming weekend's bad weather has moved through.

#### **Vice Presidents' Report—Dana Bosler, Marisa Yoder**

- Marisa Yoder presented a list of Committees, noting which positions are filled and unfilled, for the 2019-20 school year.
- At this time, there is not a confirmed Chair for the Blacktop Ball.
- Jenny Boyle will lean on rising 4th Grade parents for the Bubble Bus and for Gift Cards.
- School Toolbox is done.
- Michelle Gabris has volunteered for Fall Festival. Marisa is looking for someone to be her Co-chair.
- Nicole can help with t-shirts for Blacktop Ball.
- Wendy Zegera has filled the positions for Book Fair.
- Taylor Whitaker will not return as Trivia Chair, she is pregnant. They are looking for someone within the existing committee to step up.
- Per Denice's request, Marisa will reach out to all current committee chairs for feedback on their budgets.

#### **2nd Vice Presidents' Report—Elyssa Sullivan, Nicole Spiegel**

- Talk at the School Board has been about the upcoming vote on Proposition E, a no-tax rate increase \$22 million bond issue which will be used to support Safety, Accessibly and Space Improvements.
- Information can be found on the District website.

- Elyssa is happy to help get signs into yards if anyone is interested.

**Treasurer/Audit Report—Denice Cusumano, Sarah Calame**

- No report.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report—Centron Felder**

- No report.

**Welcome Committee Report—Amanda Garnier, Katie Franke**

- The Welcome Committee has had their one meeting for the year.
- Kindergarten Playdates have been set.
- New t-shirts are in.
- Planning is underway for the 2019-20 Welcome Picnic.
- Katie and Amanda attended the Kindergarten Open House in January and they will be there for the Kindergarten Preview in April.

**Equity Liaison's Report—Marisa Yoder**

- No report.