

October 17, 2019 – PTO Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Presidents' Reports

- STEAM Night went well. This year was a little different than past years. This year, there were many booths from outside places, like the Magic House and Science Center. In years past, it has been more parent-staffed with parent's providing the activities and running the booths. In the future, one thing we might want to consider if we want to save on the budget is a hybrid-style event with some outside booth and some parent-run booths.
- Our PTO BBQ didn't really raise much money. It's not something we would consider doing in the future, but we did manage to use up some of the leftover food.
- We had a discussion outlining the speakers & topics at our meetings from the rest of the year. Meetings with speakers tend to always be well attended and we're considering inviting other elementary schools to attend as well if they would be on topics of interest to the entire district. The proposed topics include childhood anxiety, literacy (perhaps as a tie in with literacy month?), a child sleep specialist and preventing child sexual abuse.
- It sounds like the Literacy speaker would be best in February. The childhood anxiety speaker needs to do March in the evening, and it sounds like March 5 might work. We can reach out to the other two speakers about doing April or May dates.
- Due to the rain, Fall Festival didn't make much money. Traditionally, the PTO has covered \$50/student towards Camp Wyman, but with the Fall Festival not making much, this is going to be hard to continue to fund, especially with us in the red.
- There are still several fundraising opportunities for the 5th graders, including selling gift cards. There was a lengthy discussion about how we approach this. Do we cover it out of our PTO savings account this year, since it is traditional to do so, and discontinue it hereafter unless fall festival actually makes money? Or do we tell the 5th graders this year that we can't cover it since fall festival didn't make anything and offer suggestions on other fundraising opportunities?
- Some kids made a lot on selling gift cards last year, so possibly we need to emphasize this as an opportunity to make up for fall festival. We need to address this soon so there are no surprises in the Spring when it is closer to camp.

- Per Mr. Senti, the school has always come up with a way to provide the funds to a student in need and his office has dealt with that issue in the past as needed.
- The November PTO Coffee is moving from 11/8 to 11/11 at 8:45 on the lawn. Most of us are going to try and attend if able.
- We are going to do one more “One and Done” push for the year, by email, saying we are winding down the fundraiser so we’re not bugging people all year long. We can put something in the Bulletin, on Facebook and perhaps an email from the PTO.
- We’re doing out School-Wide survey in early 2020, likely in January.

1st Vice Presidents’ Reports

- Blacktop Ball does need to be moved due to the current date (May 8th) being a half day. We discussed moving it to the week before or to the Thursday before. After some discussion, we will likely want to move it to Friday, May 1st.
- For staff appreciation, we will provide dinner at both of the conference nights, one night from Jet’s Pizza

2nd Vice Presidents’ Reports

- There is a Board of Education vacancy, but the position does require financial management experience
- Run for Webster is this weekend, with numerous activities, including a 5K, a 1-mile fun run and a variety of sprints. You can “Sleep in for Webster” if you don’t want to run and there is a pancake breakfast, flu shots and the Mattress Sale for the WGHS band. You can register online and it’s not too late!

Treasurer’s Report

- We need to mail thank you letters for the One and Done donors – Recording Secretary can help with the Excel spreadsheet to print the letters and envelopes
- We give out teacher stipend each year around the holidays that the staff can spend on whatever they want for their classrooms or even personally. The teachers get one amount and then the support staff get another. We need to think of some cute and economical way to package these cash gifts and will float some potential ideas around one we know the exact numbers.

- Buzz Books didn't sell very well and only 11 were ordered, bringing in \$55. We likely will lose more money printing these than we make, so we need to consider whether we go ahead or just send back the money to everyone. In the future, this probably isn't worth continuing to do.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

- A number of "Thank You" cards were signed.
- We should try and come up with a uniform policy on who receives a "Thank You" Card. We should definitely send them to outside folks who donate or assist, but we need to decide whether we will for internal people, such as committee chairs.

Welcome Committee Report

- We raised around \$100 at our Fro-Yo Fundraiser and approximately \$500 at our Layla fundraiser. Since these seem to be a success, we would like to consider doing some more over the course of the year, possibly at Chipotle or Firenze Pizza.
- Our next restaurant fundraising event is at Jet's Pizza during conferences on November 12 & 14. There will be coupons we need to use when we pick-up and we will order Jet's Pizza for one or our two teacher appreciation meals during conferences.

Equity Liaison's Report

- Equity Liaison would like to spend her discretionary budget to help fund childcare at General PTO meetings so we can ensure that continues all year

Teacher's Report – Nothing to Report

Principal's Report

- The landscaping went well and we've gotten a number of comments from parents and the neighborhood in general about how nice it looks!
- All of the classrooms & specialist rooms have updated emergency bags with useful equipment and less crackers. The nurse also got a new and upgraded emergency response kit.
- Last year at Trivia Night, one big push was for more money to support live arts performances coming into the school. The PTO recently sponsored the Metro Theater Company to come and perform The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus for the older grades.

As this was a big success, we are in the process of booking two performances from the Black Rep, one for K-3 (Anansi the Spider) and one for grades 4 & 5 (Sweet Clara and The Freedom Quilt). More info about the dates and times for these will follow shortly.

Upcoming Dates

November 11, 2019 @ 8:45 AM: PTO Coffee on the Lawn (weather dependent)

November 12, 2019 & November 14, 2019 @ 3:30 PM – 7:30: Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 15, 2019: No School

November 19, 2019: WGSD PTO Summit @ 6PM at District Service Center