

PTO Minutes
Thursday, September 6, 2018
6:30pm, ERS Library

President: Introductions & May minutes approved

Guest speaker: Sara Luesse (Counseling)

Mrs. Luesse provided an overview of counseling at ERS. She had two themes: *"Turning people into trees...appreciating them just the way they are."* *"Children are who they are supposed to be right where they are."* This fall, counseling sessions for grades K-4 will happen in the classrooms every other week; grade 5 session happen every week for the first 8 weeks (followed by Team 5 for the next 8 weeks). Lessons are curriculum-based and sometimes "in-the-moment need based. A newsletter will be sent home each month to outline counseling lessons, along with questions to prompt home discussion. Mrs. Luesse will also run small groups/individual sessions and group service for 20+ students for at least 30 minutes each week. Ms. Lily Carl is the counseling aide who will assist with 2nd grade lessons, group sessions, and 1-1 sessions, as well as serve as the sensory room facilitator. Lastly, a needs assessment was distributed, and attendees were asked about interest in a book group or play therapy workshop. Mrs. Luesse can be reached at: luesse.sara@wgmail.org or followed on Twitter @counselorluesse. The ERS counseling website has a number of resources: www.webster.k12.mo.us/domain/2490

Vice Presidents:

Please see committee reports attached to the agenda.

Treasurer:

- \$17,636 cash on hand
- Committee chairs can use debit card to pay in advance or can submit receipts for reimbursement.
- The BidPal link will be used more this year (e.g. ticket purchases).
- The Buzz Book will be distributed electronically, with hard copies available for \$5.

School Updates & Grade Highlights:

- Second grade teachers reported that the students will take a field trip to MoBot. They are also working on non-fiction and character education.
- Dr Wuch reported that the first few weeks of school are going well, including arrival and dismissal; please pass along dismissal rules to whomever is picking up your child. A fire drill was also held.
- The first early dismissal day is Oct 17.
- JumpStart Conferences were wonderful, with 98% attendance.
- The best ways to stay connected are the Paw Print, Sunday School, and ERS Facebook page.
- There is a PLC district-wide initiative in which grade levels meet formally once a week to collaborate and improve instruction.
- ERS goals include: Be a collaborative community (grade levels have 3 days/week of 50 minutes common planning time); create a culture of acceptance, understanding, and inclusion for all; and
- WGSD will hold planning & safety meetings throughout district during month of September. (ERS families can attend any meeting (not just the one at ERS), as they will all address the whole district.)
- WGSD News: The WGHS Class of 2018 earned \$30 million+ in scholarships.

Next PTO meeting (Oct 4, 6:30pm): There will be a shorter "regular" meeting, followed by a Pinot's Palette demonstration (sans wine) with Mrs. Lee and specialists.