

October 7, 2021 ERS Virtual PTO Meeting

Attendance: H Goff, L Buchanan, A. Porter, L Kerrigan, K Drennan, K Rengel, Dr. Wuch, E Reeves, A Willis, C Koehn, Delayna A, J Gates, J Lidgus, K Keller, K Proffer, K Carroll, Lindsey B, L Parker, M Heikkila, M Condon, Michelle, S Lehrmann, S Coleman, S Benedum, K Carroll, L Brown

September Meeting Minutes Approved

Thanks to all who helped with the events which have already taken place.

Committee Updates:

- Fun Run- Webster Kirkwood Times may be swinging by to get a write up and/or photos. Almost \$8K raised so far! Thanks to the sponsors and volunteers.
- Buzz Book – Released earlier this week including a PTO Calendar.
- Room Parents – Kaylyn reached out to room parents earlier this month: go ahead with fall parties without parents in attendance inside the classrooms.
- Book Fair – Suzie B is chair. Occurs in conjunction with Parent/Teacher conferences (in person). Still in the planning stages. There will be an online component as well which runs later into November. Introducing something called eWallet: allowing kids to buy books from their account in lieu of cash on hand. Funds to benefit the special teachers as well as PTO. There are options here to allow PTO to keep some credit while also sharing with specials.
- Conference Meals- Week of 11/15 but admin requests Monday. Prepackaged food is no longer a requirement (only hand sanitizer) but self-serve is highly recommended. Teachers will eat on a staggered basis. Prepare for a group of 30. Dr. Wuch says conferences could be in person or over Zoom over a 4-day period. This is different than prior years.
- Monthly Coffee- Next scheduled for October 22nd. **ACTION ITEM:** Change PTO calendar and socials
- Trunk or Treat-6-7:30 on Friday, October 29th. Need trunks and tons of candy! Donations can be made at ERS or Venmo PTO. Still in the planning stages, but focusing on crowding issues is a priority. Costume contest at 7 after a dance party.
- Penny Drive- November 8th week. “Thankful for Edgar Road Specials Teachers”: classroom vs. classroom for each grade level. Collection bins in each classroom provided by PTO.
- Original Works- Ginger Garrett working on this
- Holiday Delivery- Secret Santa on your doorstep type of thing. Brainstorming ideas now: working with ERS admin.
- Trivia Night – Still undecided due to Covid.
- Dine Outs- Oct. 19 Dewey’s Give Back Night 20% Given Back to PTO. Flyers will go out to kids closer to the event along with a bunch of social media posts. Dewey’s has been warned about extra volume that night! November will be The Parkmoor, more details to follow. Brainstorming ideas for each month of the school year.
 - Suggestion to just straight up ask for money. Maybe a drive of sorts for a month? Direct Ask Campaign. **ACTION ITEM:** Board to discuss.

Sarah L spoke about Trivia Night Auction stuff. TriviaHub online platform. Give Smart online auction platform.

- Tasty Treats- November 8th per Admin approval (**ACTION ITEM**). Others to follow in 2022. Will use SignUp Genius and ERS community for donations as needed.

- Equity- Amber W speaks on their behalf: Connection to Social Justice Committee. Book Audit. Brainstorming Family Reading Night

Treasurer's Report: Shared latest balance sheet and how that relates to events held thus far. Passive fundraising options mentioned including United Way. United Way takes place in August; so this reminder should be taking place over the summer. Quick plug for someone to shadow Kathryn for her predecessor.

School Updates: Dr. Wuch introduces some of the staff in attendance. Employed by SSD but part of the ERS community!

- Carrie Koehn -speech pathologist speaks about Best Buddies Program which can finally get reinstated after COVID 19! Best Buddies program has a mission of fostering friendships between those with disabilities and their fully capable peers. In elementary there's a focus on group events, build organic friendships.
- Sidney Coleman(4th year) -SSD(Special School District) on staff to see a range of qualifying IEP students for a range of time.
- Sarah Lehrmann(4th year)- SSD Resource teacher – sees students of any age level for all levels of assistance. Works with small groups or also an individual basis. Looking to plan Special Olympics.
- Kristin Carroll – ERS math interventionist pushing into classrooms of all levels. Working on evaluating need at the moment. Parents are made aware if their child is pulled from the classroom for this assistance (in all subjects).

Dr. Wuch: 22% of enrollment (excluding KDG) were virtual or new to ERS. Faculty not looking at pacing guides at the moment, because things aren't moving academically as expected. Implication of kids being "behind" due to the pandemic. Thanks to Dr. Wuch for sharing this news. Encourage her to share the "State of the Union" to the ERS community. Spirit Wear sold around 226 items! Suggestion to do a weekly highlight on socials we can see "inside" the building.

- + Question: Upcoming field trips- how is this addressed in the context of equity? Use Field Trip Fund for any student(s) who expresses hardship. If they can't pay or they can't bring their required sack lunch. Cafeteria lunch could be turned into a sack lunch, and this year the cafeteria lunches are free to everyone. Prior to pandemic, approval had been given for PTO to donate money to ERS for the express purpose of paying for the busses. This is an effort to alleviate the charge to the families themselves. **ACTION ITEM:** Add to budget for next year?
- + Facebook shows renderings of the new outdoor eating space for which PTO is raising funds. Will the gumball tree remain or be removed? While it is a nuisance with the plumbing, it may remain because tree removal is not in a budget from the district perspective. If tree is removed, shading will have to be added. That being said, this project will likely occur in stages. Jennifer Gates, Andy Hellwig and Gates(?) met with Wuch about bids and possibilities. Dr. Wuch is applying for a Foundation Grant to help offset the costs.
- + Teacher "Thank You's" were received by PTO in response to their grants. Facebook shows some of the responses we got and how they were using their money.
- + Why is masking required for Trunk or Treat even though the district is giving other guidance? ERS is the only elementary to not require masks for all outdoor events so far. No policing

expected. Suggestion to add a sign at the parking lot to remind participants of the mask requirements.

- + COVID numbers are low.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting- Thursday, Nov. 4th 6:30 over Zoom.