



Defer Elementary PTO

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Defer Elementary School

7:00 PM

In attendance: Christy Sherding, Sophan Buffa, JJ DeRosier, Erin Weakland, Lindy Holloway, Dr. Rheume, Beth Lowe, Patrice Arend, Stacy Hutchcraft, Kelly Rossi, Michael DeCenso, Jane Nugent, Ginny Jeup, LaKeytria Felder, Laura Ochab, Michelle Shalhoub, Julie Etheridge, Karen Stevant, Amanda Metes, Janani Yates, Nadia Nijimbere

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – Christy Sherding @ 7:02PM Defer PTO Mission Statement, reminder to vote you must be a PTO member. Explained how to become a member of the PTO.
2. **Review of the Previous Minutes** – Erin Weakland – Lindy Holloway motioned to approve meeting minutes; Sophan Buffa seconded. Motion passed.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Stephen Justin (not in attendance) – Christy discussed Treasurer's Report – Fun Run numbers are not yet published. No questions. Lindy Holloway motioned to approve meeting minutes; JJ DeRosier seconded; motion passed.
4. **President's Report** – Christy Sherding – Emails are now being sent to Committee Chairs and Volunteers with Committee Budget, notes, contacts, etc. All should be sent out by end of next week.
5. **Vice President's Report** – Sophan Buffa – PTO council was last week, Courtney Tidwell attended in Sophan Buffa's Place. Oct 19th Communities United in Diversity meeting, Nov 2nd Ferry Listening Sessions, District Open House is scheduled for November 6th.
6. **Communications Report** – JJ DeRosier – Facebook engagements and feedback have been incredibly positive. Following up from last month's meeting, we are approved (by GPPSS) to start an Instagram page for Defer. Account will be set up the same as FB accounts. All information shared will be shared across both platforms, **except** for photos of children (events, updates, reminders). Instagram page will be a public page, similarly to FB.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Fundraising/Fun Run (10/7) – Stacy Hutchcraft
 - i. **SO FAR** (still open until Thursday) we raised **\$54k!!!!!!**
 1. 97% registration rate
 2. 82% participation rate
 - ii. Highlights – working with Pierce, relay race between both schools
 - iii. Thank you to all the committee members and volunteers (over 70!) for all your help and dedication. Our community here is incredibly special, and we wouldn't have been successful without them.
 - iv. Communications will be coming soon on new purchases from the Fun Run dollars raised
 - v. Working on continuous improvement on the Fun Run program, which has been developed over the past several years. Committee will meet soon with volunteers that will take on the Fun Run for 2023 to continue the program.
 - b. Defer Progressive Dinner (10/15) – Lindy Holloway
 - i. 97 paid attendees (103 in 2019) – first one back after 3 years. Park Grill and Village Wine are providing food and beverage.
 - ii. Christy provided overview of the event (Appetizers, Dinner, and Dessert)
 - c. Cider and Donuts (10/27) – Nicole Luyk (not in attendance – sent notes prior to meeting)
 - i. The Brownie Troop, along with 5 adult volunteers, will be managing the event.

- 1. The girls will be earning a badge for a service event
 - ii. Donuts and Cider have been purchased for the event
 - iii. Color and/or craft table will also be set up for the event
 - iv. Plenty of extra donuts/cider have been purchased to accommodate middle schoolers/siblings
 - d. Haunted Garage (10/28) – Erin Weakland
 - i. Defer event is 10/28, but tickets can be used for any night of the Haunted Garage.
 - ii. Ticket sales are live. JJ has been promoting on social media
 - iii. Volunteers for the event will be needed. Request going out on social soon.
 - e. Sip for Safeties – Charlene Williams (not in attendance) – Christy Sherding provided an update.
 - i. We'd like to reinstate this program for 2022-2023
 - ii. Provide hot cocoa or lemonade to volunteers
 - iii. Working with Mr. Buckman
 - iv. Looking to start the program in November
 - f. Skate Night (11/10) – Lauren Nowicki (not in attendance) – November 10th at 6:30 Great Skate, \$5 per child. Timing **corrected 6PM – 8PM**
 - g. Lunchtime enrichment – Beth Lowe
 - i. Beth will be leading this program
 - ii. Program will run January through mid -March – volunteers to come in to provide an activity (coloring, board games, Motor City Mitten, Legos, etc.)
 - iii. Sign ups should go up mid-December
 - iv. Students will get 2 choices
 - h. Hospitality – Christy Sherding
 - i. Requesting additional \$1000 to hospitality fund
 - ii. Lindy Holloway motions we increase the hospitality budget from \$500 to \$1500
 - iii. Parent teacher conferences this Wednesday – lunch will be provided to all staff
- 8. **Teachers Report** – Jane Nugent and Michael DeCenso
 - a. Fun Run was amazing – headbands, raffles, pizza parties, popsicle parties – it was all enjoyed by students and staff
 - b. Suggestion from teachers on lost and found
 - i. Suggestion for a parent volunteer to pull out lost and found once a month
 - ii. Lindy suggested to post pictures online (social media), reminder to put your name on everything
 - iii. Teachers do take classes out to look and check for lost items
 - c. Teachers can always send information/requests to the PTO via contact@deferpto.org
 - d. Angel Fund – Request to supply the school with gloves, coats, hats, boots, etc. for when the weather gets colder. Jane Nugent to submit request via email to PTO Board with details and we will review next meeting.
- 9. **Principal's Report** – Lisa Rheaume
 - a. Thank you to everyone involved with the Fun Run
 - b. Conferences are this week – Wednesday/Thursday
 - c. Lunch volunteers are needed
 - d. Requests
 - i. The school has purchased ball cage and pumps – it has been working great to keep track of recess equipment \$220.
 - 1. Lindy moves to provide \$500 for recess equipment. Patrice seconded, motion passed.
 - ii. S'more format is currently used for newsletter. The license this year is \$1999 and requesting the PTO will sponsor
 - 1. JJ DeRosier motioned; Lindy seconded, motion passed.
 - iii. Building on the idea of lunchtime enrichment – the school will be starting clubs (teachers run) on a smaller scale: games, birthday card club, Lego club, drama club, etc.
 - 1. These clubs will run for 6 weeks, before lunchtime enrichment and then after lunchtime enrichment.
 - 2. Meetings will be once a week

3. Request funds (\$600) from PTO to support
 - a. Sophan motioned to approve \$600 in funds towards clubs, JJ DeRosier seconded, motion passed.
- e. Please reach out to Dr. Rheume directly with any questions or concerns.

10. Old Business

- a. Instagram – discussed in item 6 above
- b. Virtual Meetings – this was discussed in our September meeting. Right now, we are not equipped to run virtual meetings. We are discussing revising our bylaws to address. This was initially in the bi-laws due to COVID.

11. New Business

- a. Fun Run Purchases (Dr. Rheume)
 - i. Books – literacy footprints (kit) multiple levels per grade level. Bin with lesson plans, books, and supplemental information (comprehension cards, etc.)
 1. Kit for every grade level \$11,000
 2. Kit for every grade level, plus supplemental materials for multiple classrooms (per grade) \$14,881
 - a. Quoted on 9-21-22, Defer is provided 10% discount
 - b. Erin Weakland makes a motion to fund \$15,000 in Literacy Footprint Kits. Sophan Buffa seconds, motion passed.
 3. Discussion
 - a. Originally PTO purchased first kits, GPPE Foundation moneys have also been used in the past.
 - b. More details on kits – new materials, high interest books, Jane Nugent provided samples
 - c. Budget discussion for new parents – The PTO works to be budget neutral. Everything in the budget is covered by what we have raised last year. We then discuss with Dr. Rheume, where do you need support/funds for our students and/or our school? Items are then presented to PTO at regular meetings so all can have a voice/input on how those funds are spent. We take every opportunity to share that all the things we purchase for students and the school are powered by the Fun Run. Previous purchases – Spinners, Gaga Pit, Flexible Seating, iPads, etc. Everything is kept equitable for every kid, every grade – to help all our students.
 - ii. Collaborative tables for the library. The library is where all meetings are held (clubs, Girl Scouts, Teacher meetings, PTO, etc.) and we would like to update the space with tables that are easier to move and adjust based upon student needs.
 1. Dr. Rheume and Mr. DeCensco are working on getting quotes from different vendors. Price is estimated \$5k-\$8k
 2. Final quotes and images of tables are to be provided at the November PTO meeting and put to vote.
- b. Top Winner Celebration – Stacy Hutchcraft is working on an event for our top 25 fundraising families with Correander Book Shoppe. We are also going to pick 5 students and their families (by raffle, regardless of donation) to join the event.

12. Member Comment(s)

- a. Michelle Shalhoub –Scholastic Dollars were used to purchase new birthday books for the school. The Book Fair is to be scheduled in March 2023
- b. Lindy Holloway
 - i. Community Tailgate and GPS vs GPN Football game is Friday, October 21st
 - ii. GP Foundation for Public Education – mention of available grants available
 - iii. Pierce PTO meeting next Tuesday, October 18th at 7PM in the Pierce Library

13. **Adjournment** – Christy Sherding 8:12 PM

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, 11/9, at 7:00 PM (due to Election Day)
- No meeting in December

Upcoming Events and Dates

- Staff/Parent Conferences (10/12 and 10/13)
- Defer Progressive Dinner (10/15)
- Cider and Donuts (10/27)
- Haunted Garage (10/28)
- Halloween Parade (10/31)
- Skate Night (11/10)