

PTO Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

Ferry Elementary, 2020-2021

6:30pm - Ferry Library

In attendance: Leslie Genest, Anne Flanagan, Kim Reed, Elly Chichester, Stephanie Cleland, Megan Wood, Randie Kohler, Sandy Cameron, Shannon Fulcher, Jodie Randazzo

1. Introduction and Announcements (Leslie Genest)
 - Meeting called to order at 6:35pm
2. Approval of September Minutes
 - **Minutes will need to be approved at November meeting**
3. Financial report (Kim Reed)
 - Do we keep the whole \$44,000 from the Fall Fundraiser? No - expenses come out first and percentage to Step It Up
 - Kim working with Jodie to set up Venmo
 - Difficult because phone numbers associated with existing Venmo accounts will not allow an additional one
 - Need a phone for someone connected to the school to set up a new account
4. Principal comments (Jodie Randazzo)
 - Thanks for spoiling teachers this year especially during conferences - much appreciated
 - Desperate need for substitute teachers
 - Dec 9th - There will be additional training provided that morning for substitutes
 - No teaching certificate needed
 - Sign up with EDU Staff
 - Need parent volunteer for that day
 - The Family Center - what does our school need? - emotional support for students/teachers
 - Additionally it would be nice to have an info night for parents to help them understand a teachers role (restorative practice)
 - What does close contact mean?- inside and closer than 3 ft and without a mask
 - Students are sat 6 ft apart in lunchroom
 - No opportunity for close contact at ferry
 - Close contact does not apply to outdoors
 - If close contact occurs, testing 5 days in a row is an option (instead of quarantining for 10 days)
 - This does not include close contact off Ferry grounds - that requires mandatory quarantining for 10 days
 - Safe Routs coming up - we have enough parent and teacher volunteers
 - Nov 7th is the school open house - there will be some asks of the PTO for that day (swag bags)
 - Jodie will present that to PTO next week
 - Library needs one more white board table - ideally the librarian would like additional funds for that and use the already allocated funds for books
 - what is the price of the table?
 - We have a need for and don't currently have a literacy library (leveled books) teachers have been asking for these
 - benefit for the children - children can be given books to read based on their specific skill level
 - we have some but they don't specify the skill level (learning skill sets - researched based)
 - Jodie will bring more information on cost
 - a good set can cost around \$10,000
 - Each level would include about 30 different texts
 - we have the space (teachers lounge is a good option)
 - teachers would access and give to kids for small group reading; then return
 - literacy is a district initiative right now because of literacy coaches - now is a powerful time for something like this
 - not having these has been identified as a major stumbling block for teachers
 - books would get immediate use - teachers will feel supported
 - Other than at Title 1 schools, these have been funded by PTOs

- Randie - how can we get an outside garbage can? - This has been difficult in the past because it gets filled up by the community rather than school then people are calling complaining that the trash cans are full
- Dogs have been seen on property off leash during school hours
 - School grounds are only to be used by the school during school hours
 - If you see this happening, call the office and Jodie will come out to speak to them

5. Teacher representatives (Anne Flanagan and Sandy Cameron)

- Sandy - Thank you for decorating the teachers lounge for halloween!
 - The food and treats last week for conferences was very much appreciated
- Anne - Most or all of the Scholastic news have arrived
 - Scholastic identified that they were having issues at every step of the process - staffing, paper, trucking, and mail issues
- Thanks for book fair and teacher gifts (from wish lists)
- Day of awesomeness - kids loved it!
- Student lighthouse is starting up again-10 4th graders lunchtime meetings - They are anxious to do more stuff
 - Spirit week next week
 - Video town hall (they are working on that now)
 - Avery - Student who had open heart surgery - They are asking everyone to bring in 2 pieces of Halloween candy that we can give to Avery "we trick or treated for you"- if too much, excess will be donated
 - Smencil sale in November - Will make donation from the proceeds in Avery's name to his hospital and give Avery one of each type of smencil

6. Recruiting/Membership (Randie Kohler)

- In need of lunch room helpers - Google document is out
 - Must have a background check to volunteer (this is a one time thing)
 - Can we have a big push to get people to submit their info for background check (in the event they may want to volunteer in the future) so we can have it out of the way and can accept those volunteers when they are able instead of turning them away at last minute for lack of information - Jodie working on that now
 - 3 lunch sessions about 11:10am-12:30pm - Monday and Friday are usually covered - Tuesday-Thursday is when we need the most help
 - Mistar has background check information for parents to fill out
 - Can we send a reminder out to parents (hard copy and electronic) for parents to log on and fill out
- Directory - Randie working on it now
- Open board spots for 2022-2023 school year
 - VP and Treasurer for sure - be thinking ahead if we know of anyone who may be interested

7. Fundraising and Events / Chairperson Reports

A. Fall Fundraiser - Chelsea Brozo

- Total \$44,125
- Should we reconsider Step It Up for next year?
 - Lots of work still involved for the percentage they get (50%)
 - Many of the prizes were not geared towards kids
 - An option may be to just hire inflatable company ourselves and play music
 - Step it Up is a whole marketing concept which is designed to bring in more money
 - Raised \$17,000 last year
 - Step It Up has not seemed very interested in negotiating
 - Leslie will be meeting with them to discuss what areas they can improve

B. Book Fair - Elly Chichester

- Last spring we benefited from outside traffic drop off and pick up and raised \$7,600
- This year sales were \$8,364.42! Equals \$3,945.48 in Scholastic Dollars
 - Scholastic Dollars will be used to purchase birthday books
 - In June we will purchase the Scholastic news for the 2022-2023 school year (about \$2,100)
 - Scholastic Dollars previous balance: \$575.57 - New balance after book fair: \$4,521.05
- Teacher wish lists - some got every book purchased!
 - Not everyone knew to ask about the wish lists (maybe make them more accessible next time)
- The online book fair continues through October 24th
- Can scholastic dollars be contributed to the purchase of the literacy library? Yes

- For the most part kids spent all/most of the money they were sent with - parents/volunteers helped make up difference if they were a little short
- Can we have an additional online only sale around Christmas? Yes - but its possible we will run into shipping delays
- Restock order did not show up on time and were returned
- Having the preview day really helped this year
- Figuring the sales tax was a little bit of an issue - can we have a chart to help them? With the most used price points (Elly and Stephanie can work on that)

C. Trunk or Treat - Emily Rubio - October 29th

- Donations at the door - whatever you want to donate for the school
- Tickets will be sold for small giveaways for kids

D. Haunted Garage - Randie Kohler

- Amazing night - over \$4,000 from pre-sale tickets (not all will go to ferry - we will write a check to haunted garage) - does not include tickets sold that night, VIP upgrades or people who went another night supporting Ferry
- Final number will be available in November

8. Board of Education Report (Nicole Jensen)

- Meeting last week was cancelled
- They are promoting the North v. South tailgate and the 100 Year Anniversary
- Community luncheon moved to the spring

9. PTO Council Report (Stephanie Cleland)

- Looking for positive review of the school district
 - Parents need to put in their reviews if they want the district to have a better rating
- Dec 4th - The Bazaar at Parcels

10. Community Resources

A. Kevin's Song - Nicole Jensen

- Annual Conference will be held in January (virtual event) - More details to come

B. The Family Center

C. The Grosse Pointe Foundation

- New grants - seed grants for social and emotional - no deadlines (ex. Therapy dogs)
 - Schools are encouraged to apply anytime

11. Old Business

A. Teachers lounge

- Jodie meeting with construction team tomorrow - project will be underway

B. Music Teacher Special Request

- Did she submit her request for a grant from The GP Foundation? What was the outcome?
- Will discuss further once we know if her grant was awarded or not

12. New Business

A. Will we have a discussion for what to do with extra funds?

- Request can be submitted by teachers to the PTO anytime
- When we meet in February/March we can do smaller grants for teachers for known needs or for the whole schools for things like sun shade for playground

B. Literacy library and Sunshade - put them on for discussion next month so we can see price points and how much/many are needed

C. Meeting time - requests for keeping it at 7pm - **we are going forward with a 7pm start time and a hard end at 8pm**

14. Adjournment (Leslie Genest)

- 7:44pm