

## PTO Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, November 10th, 2021

Ferry Elementary, 2020-2021

7:00pm - Ferry Library

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

### 1. Introduction and Announcements (Leslie Genest)

- Meeting called to order at 6:59 pm

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- ★ **September 2021 - Motion: Joe; Second: Megan; Approved as written**
- ★ **October 2021 - Motion: Kelly, Second: Stephanie; Approved as written**

### 3. Financial report (Kim Reed)

- End of year Kim will have a bigger financial package for everyone
- Fall fundraiser well exceeded our budget!
- Haunted Garage - still need to give our portion back to them - waiting to hear back from them on final number
- About \$60,000 in checking and about \$15,000 in savings
- Working on ways to make the Treasurer Position run more smoothly
  - Control around cash movement - cash is high risk (possibility for loss)
  - Leslie and Stephanie log into bank and double check that what is in there is what is expected
  - June of last year never got reconciled. Depositing cash for the prior school year is difficult to make sure it is applied to the correct budget
  - Adding a line item "Prior year activity" to budget to help make that flow a bit easier
    - This is why its important to get checks and receipts in in a timely manner for the current fiscal year
    - Need to have a cut off for reimbursements to be turned in
- We need to talk about how to best spend our surplus
  - Lets try to have real numbers on surplus as well as costs for items that we already know we need/want at our December meeting
  - In February we can put a call out for requests from teachers
  - Our goal as a non-profit is to spend the money that we raise to better our school rather than save it (savings account is our backup)

### 4. Principal Comments (Jodie Randazzo)

- Literacy library- she is working on it but does not have concrete info/numbers yet
- 1st Town hall being worked on by the Student Lighthouse
- Furniture ready to be assembled in the teachers lounge
  - Next month we will have a report from Caitlin Inger on her progress and vision for the lounge

### 5. Teacher Representatives (Anne Flanagan and Sandy Cameron)

- Student Lighthouse is meeting - They gave tours during open house and are excited about possibility of a Town Hall
  - Candy donations for Avery - we got so much! They took him a huge bag of full size candy and a bunch of toys
    - Two huge boxes of excess candy were donated to Ferry Staff and GP Public Safety Officers
- This week would have normally been field trip to Brownell play (Adam's family musical Junior Edition)
  - Our kids are noticing that the Middle schools are getting to do more things (they are vaccinated)
  - To help make this year be more special for them, we created a YES box for their dream requests for a 'yes day'
    - Lots of requests for pizza parties, long recess and a movie day!
    - Seeing how we can incorporate these special events into our schools days

### 6. Recruiting/Membership

- Still have a couple spots that need filling for this year or next
- No word yet on Science Olympiad (usually kicks off in January)
  - Kim offered to co-chair with someone else if it does happen
- Stephanie will check with Randie to see if there is an update on the directory - lets just make a decision soon

## 7. Fundraising/Events and Chairperson Reports

- Fall Fundraiser:
  - Had close out meeting last week with rep from Step it Up
    - We were clear about our issues with the program to see how flexible they are willing to be moving forward
    - We discussed prizes, percentage of money that goes to prizes, can we cut back on the number and give away better ones
    - Went over different scenarios with him including keeping a bigger percentage - the Rep said he would speak to his bosses about making the changes and get back to us
  - This years fundraiser is closed out - we well exceeded our goal
  - Chelsea is looking into other options (she will be Chair again next year)
- Haunted Garage
  - Will get numbers from Randie next month
- Santa Event
  - December 10th is working date (not definite); December 17th backup
  - Still working on logistics but for sure want to have a Santa here to take pictures with
  - Not so much an event where we will gather - show up, take pictures and leave with a goodie bag
  - Can we do it in the Ferry Forest (outside) and decorate the trees? Less of a concern about COVID
    - Could have a couple different stations of activities (social distanced)
- Will there be another book fair? - yes (March near conferences)
  - Lots of teachers not doing monthly orders right now because of shipping delays
  - Seasonal books not arriving on time
  - If shipping is still an issue in March, can we coordinate a 'book night' with a local book store instead?

## 8. Board of Education Report

- Reduction in staffing for early childhood - some locations for next year could be closed
  - Reviewing health recommendations vs. mandates and legalities of "mask optional"
  - The district's attorney is looking into it - will be discussed again on the 22nd
  - How will vaccinations play a part in this?
  - Goal is to keep kids in school!

## 9. PTO Council Report

- Nothing really to report
- Lots of other schools had great success with other options for fall fundraising (selling mums, color runs, pizza kits)

## 10. Community Resources

- Kevin's Song - January 22-29 - completely virtual
- The Family Center
  - Focusing a push for better understanding of restorative practice
  - Prioritizing the social and emotional well-being of students and staff
- GP Foundation

## 11. Old Business

- Teachers Lounge- see above (Principal comments)
  - More updates next month from Caitlin - then will be moved to different spot on agenda
- Music Teacher - Instrument request
  - She has not heard back from her grant request to The GP Foundation
  - Per Kim, our current surplus is roughly \$35,000 - should we just approve her request and maybe she will get twice as many instruments (if she receives grant)
- **★Stephanie makes a motion to vote on everything requested (for \$1,600); Second: Kim; Approved!!**

- Make sure the company she orders from has our tax exempt status
- Welcome Signs
  - 73 New signs
  - 25 Old signs
  - How are they usually returned? We post on FB and in e-blast to have people return them and Board members drive around picking them up
- Literacy Library
  - ★ Next month move up to under Financial Report so we can talk about this in real numbers
- Sunshade
  - Stephanie still working on it - there are grants but you have to do programs about sun safety
    - Next month we will have more information on how much the sunshades are, how much the grant would save us and what all is involved
- Whiteboard table for Library
  - Price - about \$1,000 each (She only gets \$3,000 total for the year - that would be a big portion of her allowance)
  - Will we need the table still if social distancing is no longer a factor next year?
  - Will it even be here before the end of the school year?

12. New Business

13. Adjournment

- 7:52pm