

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