



PTO MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2015



Attendees:

Nicole Donnelly
Scott and Jill Van Blarcom
Amy Pederson
Cara Brown
Nicole Burnham
Shannon Paulsen
Jennifer Marcoe

Cam Kitchen
Michal Pitzl
Moneeka Patel
Catherine Bossom
LeeAnn Starrett
Kara Kornish

Handwriting Without Tears proposal:

- A presentation by kindergarten teacher, Amy Pederson, to discuss the proposal for Handwriting Without Tears. The proposal includes buying enough small chalkboards and accessories for both kindergarten classes to help with learning proper handwriting skills. These chalkboards will also be available for other higher grade students that still need additional handwriting practice. We will take a vote on this proposal later in tonight's meeting.

Welcome

Introductions

Principal's report:

Conferences:

- Email came in today regarding conferences
- 20 minutes long
- Can be scheduled online multiple students at one time

Homework:

- Want grade levels to be consistent
 - Historically more homework
 - More does not necessarily create greatness or success
 - Parents involved or not?
 - Reading has to be a part of homework
 - Use daily activities as a learning experience
 - Teachers don't grade homework
 - Handbook has some ideas, references
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- Question from LeeAnn regarding math. Are there online options that can help parents re-learn the math lessons to help students? Answer: Yes, the new math program has online access for parents to help teach the new math format.
 - Discussion about math and language and how they are connected.
 - Language and math together will be a big focus for this year.

Volunteer Coordinator's report:

Eagle Fun Run

- We have made \$12,400 so far
- Thank you everyone for volunteering and supporting our students for this great fundraising event.

Treasurers report:

Crazy money:

- In the past, we have approved an additional \$200 per classroom for non-consumable items in the classrooms.
- There was a big discussion about how to distribute funds. Various ideas were discussed, but still want to make it equitable. The idea of scheduling a deadline for teachers who don't need to use their funds, then the funds could be redistributed to other teachers that need it.
- We could consider sending a survey to teachers to understand what they need.
- This year we are suggesting that we make the stipend \$325 per teacher without any special instructions. Will no longer have a requirement to be used for non-consumable purchases.
- The new stipend for \$325 per teacher was approved. This is still a one-time increase of \$200. The stipend for next year will revert back to \$125 per classroom.

The Handwriting Without Tears proposal was put to a vote. This proposal was approved.

The treasurer's report was also approved.

Minutes approved for September 2015.

Carnival:

- Need volunteers to assist with silent auction
- We can't do the bouncy house this year due to insurance restrictions.
- Still need help with the food, pie eating contest, silent auction, and prizes.
- Stephanie Ferry has offered to work on the silent auction.
- We decided not to have a prize room this year. Instead, we will create about 300 grab bags filled with little gifts for all the kids attending.
- We will also be raffling off a few large gifts. Kids can use their points earned from the games to enter the raffles for the larger gifts.

Yearbook:

- Nicole B. will be running the yearbook this year. She is looking for volunteers to take pictures at the carnival, and day-to-day activities at the school. She would also like pictures from other events that are coming up.

Next PTO meeting is on November 6th at 8:30am after the Friday morning meeting. That Friday morning meeting will be the pie eating contest by the teachers and Mr. Kitchen.

Adjourned at 7:55 PM