

PTO meeting minutes 19 September 2024

Attendees: Justin Pritchard, Hanah Ehrenreich, Chanelle Benz, Meg Lyttle, Fabiola Ortiz Valdez, Vanessa Jones, Karen Earl, Beth Myers, Tamara Curry, Alyssa Staneck, Sarah Brown, Alex Waldauer, Ashley Kennard, Lesley Porcelli, Sarah Workman, Brigit Burt, Sherod Harris, Matthew Fledderjohann, Patrick Flint, Sasha Farrell, Danielle Forbidussi, Lucy Bisset, Natalie Stetson, Veronica Tearney, Kate Palermo, Karen Deaton, Megan Doerle, Chris Doerle, Ali Jellani, Katie McDonald, Eric Ferguson, Kate LaClair, Principal Ellis, Brian Jacobson, Vanessa Jones (teacher rep), Meghan Murphy, Kate Sofley,

Message from PTO: We apologize for the technical difficulties—we could not get Zoom up and running, but will fix for next meeting!

Principal's Report

- Family Handbook available on PTO site
- Updated for 2024-25 – 4 commitments for the School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) specific to SCSD
 - ??? MISSED FIRST ONE
 - Building an effective learning community (in the building and with families)
 - Implementing attendance teams
 - Creating a sense of belonging (social and emotional learning)
- Goal Setting:
 - Aiming for school-wide goals, grade-level goals, student-level goals
 - Each grade level will have their own goal-setting booklet
 - Met goals for 2023-2024 school year in sub-groups related to Additional Targeted School Support (ATSI)! Going back to 2019, we had two sub-groups (economically disadvantaged and students of color) did not make sufficient growth – will share data on PTO website
 - Made great strides for ENL students! Data from NYSESLAT (New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test) shows that for students who speak a second language, we had highest number of students who moved to next level
 - Every half-day on the SCSD calendar: goal-setting day!
- Parent Communication – always welcome!
 - New this year: will develop parent newsletter to keep parents in the know
- Searches & Surveillance
 - Implementation in pre-K - 8 schools is new this year
- Ed Smith 2024-25 Assessment Cheat Sheet Walk-through (Alyssa Stanick, instructional coach)
 - We will hold family engagement night in early October to review NWEA Assessment results
- Staff updates:
 - New fourth grade teacher NAME

- New second grade teacher Ms. Briggs
- Ms. Rashid moved to health
- Ms. Fraser-Kover is departing for another school in the district
- Building-wide updates:
 - Ms. Forbiducci is leading the journalism club—thank you!
 - After school: starts on Sept. 30

Q&A

- Yearbook questions (Leslie Porcelli, parent rep):
 - Picture day is in October but need more staff participation!! Will work with Ms. Earle
 - Photo Circle – need more photos of middle schoolers! Ms. Earle will work with student photojournalists to represent middle schoolers
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – save the date:
 - November 5, 8:30 am – 3 pm
 - November 7, 5 pm – 7 pm
- Recess: very committed to making sure students get full amount of recess; school-wide policy that recess should not be punitive
 - Reach out to administrative staff or Principal Ellis if you hear otherwise from your student
- Suggestion from Hannah to provide extra test prep or coaching
- Suggestion from Hannah to create more inclusive holiday policy; current practice can be alienating for students

Approval of June's minutes:

- Sascha motions to approve, Matthew seconds

President's Report

- Come out at 11:30 am at the Community Center on Sunday Sept. 22nd for Westcott Community Fair!
- Thank you to parents for attending this PTO mtg! Attend at least one more & bring a friend next time!
- Volunteering: If you are interested in volunteering, you need to get a background check (even if you volunteered last year)
 - If you send your email, full names + phone number to your teacher, they can also process the volunteer request to the office
 - OR: reach out to Jessica Noboa, JNoboa@scsd.us (315-435-4142)
- Purpose of PTO: support ALL students

Treasurer's Report:

- Last year:
 - Budgeted to raise \$12K and raised \$7,800
 - Spent \$17K to support students!

- This year:
 - Budgeted to raise \$10K and will use \$5K of reserves
- Any connections to food & beverage? Jeremy for COOP
- Alex Waldauer: we encourage participation in PTO and you can always reach out to Alex, Outreach Coordinator!
- Sascha: has there been an effort made to communicate to teachers that they can submit funding requests?
 - Gift Cards for \$50 for teachers not budgeted for, but we will hold fall fundraising drive to raise money
- Analysis of why fundraising was less successful last year?
 - Gear sale didn't bring in a lot of money
 - Fundraising lower from indoor carnival
 - Yearbook prices went up and we spent money on 8th grade yearbook (vs. sales)
- Budget approval: Leslie motions to approve, Beth seconds, budget approved
- New treasurer email – get in touch! edsmithtreasurer@gmail.com
- Funding request: Lucy Bisset requests \$332 for assessment tool for Kindergarten assessment; Data progress monitoring tool that they want to pilot in Kindergarten
 - Bridget motions to approve, Kate seconds, approved
- Funding request: \$160 from Ms. Jones to organize materials for each table groups + play dough for recess shelf
 - Kate motions to approve, Sarah seconds, approved

Middle School Report

- Kate LaClair – new Middle School PTO VP
- Updates: we had first locker run event – Nottingham students helped middle school students navigate lockers
- Questions or Concerns? Reach out to Kate: KatieLaClair@gmail.com

Good of the Order:

- October 16 & 17 Picture Day – volunteers needed from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm to help corral students – Sign Up sheet coming soon!
 - Incentive: last year volunteers got free photos!
- PTO idea for this year: teacher or staff member of the year! Think about folks going above and beyond; district does shout outs and we could do that on PTO website
- Volunteering? Parents encouraged to reach out to your child's teacher to offer/ask for help
- T-shirt design – Discussion of updating designs to get more ppl to purchase? (Ms. Jones)
 - Kate Palermo – offered to design t-shirt
 - Eric will look into opening gear store for a longer period of time vs. holding sales throughout the year

- Eric will look into T-shirt giveaway for all students
 - We do offer CashApp for purchases
- Amazon wish lists - status? Ms. Jones will encourage teachers to post their lists
- Before and After School – request for 5 days a week and care extended from first day of school for end of school; please reach out to PTO with ideas for advocacy
- Drop Everything and Read Program? (Sascha) – Just Ed Smith, not district-wide
- Leslie motions to adjourn meeting, Kate seconds, meeting adjourned