

Ed Smith PTO Minutes
December 19, 2019

Present: Connie Myers, Kate LaClair, Emily Hart Gorman, Kari Zhe-Heimerman, Julie Gozan, Ashley Bloomer, Sarah Brown, Ashley Kennard, Susan Fuller, Karly Grifasi, Eric Ferguson, Lesley Porcelli, Beth Myers, Kate Saufley

Principal's Report

Sam Barber absent but sent message with gratitude for the start of the year; he looks forward to new year working together

November Minutes

Motion to approve Julie Gozan, second – Kari Zhe-Heimerman, approved

Treasurer's Report

Michael Grifasi, treasurer, absent, Karly will report on his behalf

Ms. Moon – request for 4th grade ice skating trip to Meacham approved by board previously

Jen Zaborsky request for \$123.36 for 2 sets (total of 24) privacy shields, used for testing, etc., Motion to approve, Connie Myers, second, Julie Gozan, approved

William Wright (new ELA teacher 8th grade) requests books, organizers. Mike to email him asking for details; Emily Hart Gorman will give him example on how to ask for items; Susan noted wish list with \$130 organizer, has sister in law with vintage store, could buy some organizers cheaper

Kari: ask Anna Dahlstein about scholastic dollars to get books for him

Wish list to be set up after more research: motion by Julie, second by Kari, approved

Karly Grifasi reports all is well with budget in Mike's absence: more hoodies have been ordered due to popular demand; large is already gone. Concessions going well; No further questions

Reminder of box top change & Amazon smile option; discussion of where Price Chopper \$ goes: Presumably to school directly? No one knows.

President's Report (Karly Grifasi)

Title I Literacy report by Karly and Emily

Emily and Lawson already made poster & sent mailers out to relevant zip codes regarding Kindergarten events; posters given out to members to disseminate; 3 events planned in next months

Request for peer volunteers (with current or recent kindergarteners)

Karly suggests adding tour options for school day

Eric reports on an email from Syracuse University including survey about housing

Beth says anyone in neighborhood can fill out with positive feedback to encourage new faculty to settle here; there is a committee already working on sharing success stories from our kids, to counteract negative narrative out there, reach out to HR to share with new faculty

Kari suggests we look into targeting LeMoyne too

Karly wants to put together proposal for Chiefs money given the many needs currently; need to figure out a grant proposal process via democratic means, now that we are in new building

Emily wants to be sure to reach out to all parents – how? Karly suggests flyers, listserv, etc., a vote – at a larger event like a concert, electronic not ideal but Emily suggests an absentee vote possibly, to include all, electronic with need to match with number or name, Karly will speak to Anna about original proposal of process they discussed Emily reports on her Arabic speaking group, perhaps a rep could come to PTO or submit suggestions to PTO from their parental smaller group

Karly suggests a diversity sub committee, Julie reports on their sub committee experience from after the 2016 elections which was then subsumed into PTO (report to School Board, etc.); folded into family engagement (Emily) and its initiatives to inclusion (e.g., Welcome Banner)

Discussion of nice job Ms Juman did with holiday concert; being sure to not cause students with different backgrounds discomfort in holiday celebrations in general. Professional development to train teachers? Esp. regarding Muslim fasting holidays, need to be sensitive to kids' needs during those dates

Welcome Banner: Julie should speak to Barber about its size and where to locate it

Open Discussion

Susan – suggests an event to have hair done at school, noting her experience with kids in classroom being sad at not having hair done; Karly remarks on need to include both boys and girls; Emily notes some schools do hold event just for girls; could be included in a Family Fun night (as one of activities)

Open Gym discussion: possible during PTO? But would need to pay admin even so

Kari asks Emily about parental participation: Emily explains many reasons hold parents back, some may just never come to meetings but all parents are interested in children's success

Connie suggests various “subcommittees” like the one with Arabic speaking parents

Lesley: Suggestion box? Requests for input in school

Discussion of failure of room parent attempt several years ago, a grade-wide rep?

Reminder to sign up on volunteer sheet being passed around by Kari, including literacy event Jan. 11, PreK-2, with Ms. Rodak; invite to local preKs

Discussion regarding supplementing food: Emily states no food is approved for distribution by parents or staff, due to regularizations

Motion to adjourn: Emily HG; Second Kate Saufley, approved.