

## Minutes from May 13 PTO Meeting (Zoom)

### **Barber - Principal's report**

- Barber demonstrates [padlet](#) for parents, including weekly learning menus
- Tech resources also listed on [Ed Smith website](#), along with teachers contact info, office hours, etc.
- Contact Karen Earl and Robin Young for tech training via Zoom
- Barber is on Re-Opening Committee for SCSD; safety is paramount concern; Barber met with teachers to ask about fears, questions, concerns regarding re-opening; compiled and shared resources with committee; committee is in the early going; four focuses: social-emotional, academics, social distancing, and finance/operations; district-wide efforts to streamline and improve online learning
- Summer school decision pending governor guidance; students will have opportunities to make up work over summer
- Erika Hegland asks about planning for the fall – Barber says planning for the fall includes multiple scenarios (in-person, online, both)
- Jeff Tamburo asks about expectations for engagement with students; Barber says there's a range of engagement, original agreement specified best efforts to engage but did not set a clear guideline, Barber working with faculty to create opportunities for students to get together online, Barber recognizes need for more interaction for the "soul of the kid," Barber has no authority to mandate a regimen of interaction/engagement

### **Karly – Approval of March/April minutes**

- April Beier motions to approve March minutes – Kate LaClair seconds – all approve
- Ashley Bloomer motions to approve April – Kate Sauffley seconds – all approve

### **Karly – President's report**

- Loaned more than 120 devices for about 150 students
- Thank you to everyone who pitched in – fundraising, donating, distribution, etc.
- Other schools have asked for our input/how did we make it happen
- Acknowledgment of Evan Weissman's service to Ed Smith as a PTO member, his passing is a tremendous loss to our community
- June meeting will have elections for Board positions

### **Mike – Treasurer's report**

- Major changes related to laptop income and expenses
- Net loss of ~\$10,000 in PTO funds to support laptop purchases
- Overall a shortfall of ~\$6,700 in overall FY20 budget
- Kate Sauffley asks about covering the shortfall; operating costs are a net zero, we came in with a surplus, we had discussed a willingness to take a loss in FY20 in order to support student technology needs in the wake of COVID-19

- Carnival/spring book sale are not included in the spreadsheet; despite not having that money, we also didn't have to spend on field trips, which reduced cost

#### **Anna Dahlstein – Scholastic summer-long online book fair**

- Readapalooza – 25% of all sales revenue will come back to Ed Smith in Scholastic credit
- Would run between now and September 4
- Books ordered by families will ship directly to the families
- Orders >\$25 qualify for free shipping
- We will keep our inventory for future book fairs
- Will need to promote Ed Smith-specific Readapalooza link on Facebook, listserv, etc.

#### **Lesley Porcelli – Yearbooks**

- Ship date expected to be delayed (original date May 22)
- Will ship to Lesley
- Anna D. notes FERPA prohibits sharing student addresses with PTO
- Will need to think about yearbook sales/distribution opportunities for pre-ordered and “surplus” yearbooks – resolution pending
- Lesley's computer is at 4%

#### **Kate Sauffley – Eighth Grade Moving Up Committee**

- How could PTO contribute to 8<sup>th</sup> grade moving up ceremony (e.g., swag, financial support)?
- Pending PTO input, Barber approval
- Moving Up committee meeting on 5/18 could provide ideas (KS and EHG participate on that committee)

#### **Questions for Barber**

- Kate LaClair asks about review content vs. new content online, seems to differ by grade; Barber will discuss with teachers for additional detail
- April Beier suggests Barber conduct drop-in Zoom meetings with classes and a blast to parents about contacting their teachers; Barber cites Robocalls, call transcripts, emails as ways parents can learn about how they can connect with their teachers
- Barber has engaged PBIS to incentivize student engagement
- Moira McDermott asks about teacher-student communication channels, fragmented communications, varies by teacher; Barber says teachers are asked to make two contacts per week (phone, email, etc.); some teachers have learned new ways to communicate through various apps; willingness to experiment X tech-savviness; district looking to standardize communications moving forward
- General topic: Communication with incoming kindergarteners – will students hear from Ed Smith before August? Barber says he must wait for the go-ahead from the district.
- Julie Gozan asks if committee has discussed incoming K students in terms of re-opening models; Barber acknowledges committee is relatively new and haven't arrived at guidelines yet. Barber suggests a virtual welcome for kindergarten families, other ways

to get families connected with PTO, invites ideas. Ashley Kennard suggests a virtual tour of the building to help the students get familiar with Ed Smith. Maura Ackerman suggests socially distanced meetups at a park with a class to meet K teachers.

- Dave Hegland asks about rumors of finishing school a week early; Barber says we're waiting to hear from the governor. It's possible it could be the week of June 18. We don't have to get everything out the last day of school. We can continue to engage families throughout the month. Early end to school is anticipated.
- Kate Sauffley asks about repeating material in the fall. Barber says the school plans to screen students upon re-entry; will re-think the curriculum. No specifics known at this time.
- Rina Brule – Options to explore outdoor education opportunities? Barber acknowledges need to consider ventilation, physical distancing requirements, faculty/staff health situations, etc. before returning to in-person instruction.
- Julie Gridley asks about extended year [IEP](#) services. Barber says we await instruction from the governor.
- Emily Hart-Gorman (Office of Family Engagement representative): OFE conducts one-hour chats on Tuesdays at 6 pm via Zoom (repeated on Thursdays at noon); recent surveys discussed technology availability and communications to families; most people were able to find food/had access to technology; EHG is always available as a resource
- Feedback to Barber can go to Karly Grifasi (for fall) or specific questions about grades/teachers can go directly to Barber; Emily Hart-Gorman also a resource for families ([ehart-gorman@scsd.us](mailto:ehart-gorman@scsd.us))
- Mike motions to adjourn; Kate seconds; all approve