

November PTO Meeting (11.18.21)

Attendees: Sarah Brown, Breanne McDonnell, Meghan Britton, Meg Lyttle, Ashley and Lee Kennard, Matthew and Susan Fuller, Nicky Fonger, Amy Brazell, Jeff Popp, Karly Grifasi, Eric and Jill Ferguson, Katie McDonald, Ali Jackson Popp, Meghan Murphy, Lesley Porcelli, Juli Gozan, Jonathan Hecht, Rhonda Veasey, Julie Forget

Principal's Report

- PBIS celebrations will return in January
- Sports are returning to the building--will host girls volleyball and boys basketball, parents will be able to come
- Working to increase communications--sent out newsletter, next one plan to have a grade level spotlight, will also work to send next newsletter via talking points and listserv

One parent brought up having issues logging into TalkingPoints. Reach out to Ms. DiBello if you are having any TalkingPoints issues.

October minutes approved.

President's Report

- SLT (School Leadership Team) 2 parent reps that sit on the team--Kelly Krissler and Sarah Brown. Kelly is heading out of the country so looking for 1 more parent rep to serve on the team. Meet once a month from 3:30-5:30 in-person in library. Can contact Sarah if interested or have questions sarahkfbrown@gmail.com
- School picture retakes are November 30th.
- Ali Jackson Popp handled school gear sale, went very smoothly. If you have any ideas about spirit gear you would like to see in Spring sale, reach out to Ali at amjack02@gmail.com or Sarah Brown.
- From Breanne McDonnell (Family Engagement)-Thank you for bringing in coats and winter gear--has helped get more kids outside.
- Canned food drive is up and running through Tuesday Nov23rd.
- There were a few extra shirts and gear ordered. If you want to inquire about purchasing a shirt or gear item you can reach out to Sarah Brown

Treasurer's Report

- Wreath Sale Money is still coming in
- Spirit Gear Sale money generated almost \$1000
- A few direct contributions--a generous \$100 donation from an Ed Smith family
- No additional requests for teacher portable mics
- 1 teacher request this month from Ms. Moon on behalf of all 4th grade teachers--to purchase dictionaries for classroom use. 10 dictionaries per class to be used in small groups--\$149.70--voted to approve

Sensory Pathway at Ed Smith: Ms. Britton

- Ms. Britton is one of the occupational therapists at Ed Smith

- Sensory pathway was brought up last meeting but didn't have much info
- Sensory needs are for all kids. Kids are asked to sit for long periods of time, and sensory
- movement breaks reduce disruptive behavior and refocus attention.
- Gives organizing input--wall pushes, bear crawls, etc
- Teachers are trying to give sensory breaks
- Visuals that kids can touch (provided slideshow of sensory pathway examples-one that is used in HW Smith)
- Question-what is the price range we are looking at? Sensory path and a figure 8--\$2100, downward dog cost extra, estimate of \$2349
- Placement is still being worked out. Idea of putting it in the basement, but it is off the beaten path. Thinking about locations in the school. Teachers want them in high traffic areas. A couple of parents volunteered to help with grant writing. Can look at HW Smith to see how they got it funded. Theirs is located outside of restrooms.
- Will revisit this in a couple of months to see if grant writing is working, or has found district funding, or whether PTO should help financially support this project. If interested in being a part of this committee can contact sarahkfbrown@gmail.com

Superintendent's Parent Council

- Westcott Community Center--planning a meeting with the community about Thornden
- Main topics-budget and attendance. Attendance needs to increase. Budget will come out sometime in December. Will get more information out about those 2 issues.

School Climate/Teacher Morale

- Proposal-PTO would spend up to \$200 for snacks for teachers and snacks for next Monday, approved
- Would like to gather a list of people to help work on ideas for the future
- Fundraising updates--wreath sale deadline is November 19-pickup is Nov 29, 30th from 3 to 6 pm
- Book sale update--set a goal of \$1000 in sales, about halfway there. PTO gets 25% of revenue-usually used to fund a book for every student when bookfair is in person
- Honeycomb fundraiser December 8th (located in Nottingham plaza) Mention Ed Smith when making a purchase and a portion goes to Ed Smith. Last year people were allowed to buy gift certificates and a percentage of that purchase went to PTO.

Questions and Comments

- Any additional info about vaccine clinics for 5-11? Another one offered at Clary Middle School on Tuesday Nov. 23rd.
- Meeting ended at 8:18pm. Next meeting is Thursday December 16th 7pm.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Bloomer