

February PTO Meeting (02.17.22)

Attendees: Sarah Brown, Ashley Bloomer, Julie Gozan, Eric Ferguson, Chris Cofer, Nicky Fonger, Katie McDonald, Kari Zhe-Heimerman, Lee and Ashley Kennard, Kate Saufley, Tarrie Newton, Breanne McDonnell, Karly Grifasi, Meghan Murphy, Rhonda Vesey, April Beier, Alex Waldauer, Maura Ackerman, Meg Lyttle, Sam Barber, Breanne McDonnell

Principal's Report:

- Concert at Nottingham was successful, inspiring and pushes to want to do more in-person events
- Book Giveaway—missing piece that was finally able to happen in-person
- Black History Show—was able to share with entire building remotely, 8th grade was able to attend in-person
- Was Black History Celebration recorded for access? Barber doesn't think so, first time using the technology.
- Question-What is the potential for an end of year inclusive talent show? Check with district, timing might be the hardest part with testing.
- Want to start thinking about 8th grade celebration, carnival, other activities, would like to see all these returning.
- 8th grade graduation—start initiating meetings and seeing if we can do in-person instead of a drive-through. Loop Ms. Ellis and Ms. Angelone in.

Approval of January Minutes

President's Report

- Book Giveaway—thank you to the volunteers that were able to help out with the book giveaway-it cleared out our inventory, will need to fundraise to buy more books
- Fundraiser Chipotle April 5th from 4-8 pm. If you go there and mention Ed Smith then a portion goes to help.
- Staff Recognition—families contributed directly to the PTO account, so we have enough to feed Specials teachers lunch tomorrow from Brooklyn Pickle-thanks to Ashley Kennard for picking up lunches and delivering to Specials teachers.
- Questions (example-What do you love about working for your school?) for staff members are going well—we've had lots of staff responses
- Several open committees that are ongoing if interested in joining contact sarahkfbrown@gmail.com:
 - Chiefs Money committee
 - Playground committee
 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation committee
- School is in need of pants for students, all sizes, can be sent in to Breanne McDonnell (family engagement) at school. Parent asked if we can donate via Venmo-yes. Secondhand is also fine.
- Meghan Murphy said that snow pants are still needed.

Treasurer's Report

- Box Tops raised \$47

- Honeycomb raised \$247
- Teacher Appreciation donations \$155
- Spirit Sale sold at Winter Concert raised \$217
- Teacher Request from Ms. Gratien, Kindergarten Teacher—requested sleds and boots-said that boots are the real limiting factor on kids getting outside for recess times, specifically size 11 and 12-will take boot donations as well.
- Discussion about whether boots would stay as a classroom set or whether they would go home, maybe keep a stash of boots, maybe do a separate fundraiser to get winter boots
- Will send out a request via listserv, asking for snow boot donations

Chiefs Money Committee—headed by Lee Kennard, looking for a few big projects-we have about \$8000 to work with, members have expressed interest in projects for the outdoor space, cafeteria space.

Yearbook—coordinated by Lesley Porcelli, is collecting photos-please send photos of your Ed Smith friends and events to lesleyporcelli@gmail.com

Community Outreach

- Westcott Neighborhood Association Meeting-they are looking for board members, if interested reach out to Rhonda Vesey rhondayeslord@yahoo.com
- March 6 Thornden Park Chili Bowl Fest 12-3pm hosted by Westcott Neighborhood Association
- Rhonda's Outreach Project: looking at March timeline, coordinating with the Red Cross

Maura and Aidan Ackerman volunteered to become new School Garden Coordinators-would be a liaison with the teachers working with the Ed Smith garden and with Syracuse Grows, the organization that provides resources—thank you to Ackermans!

Other Items

- Peachtree Sandwich Company was used by Nottingham as a fundraiser, could be a future fundraiser option for us
- Ready to start a planning committee for 8th grade end of year celebration
- Could we possibly bring back classroom parents, would this be coordinated by PTO? We could encourage parents to reach out to teachers and see if they have any supply needs. Discussion of possibly surveying teachers to see if they have an interest.
- Filled out a permit to hold the March meeting in-person at Ed Smith. Would be hard to have hybrid group such as zoom for an in-person meeting. One parent volunteered to help (Alex Waldauer) create a hybrid meeting as several parents said they wouldn't be able to attend in-person. Hybrid might create more inclusion.
- Question about Spring Carnival and whether it might happen. Yes, moving forward with beginning planning stages.

Meeting concluded at 8:35pm. The next PTO meeting will be Thursday March 24th at 7pm.
Minutes submitted by Ashley Bloomer