

## September PTO Meeting

9/28/21

Attendees: Sarah Brown, Lee and Ashley Kennard, Kate Saufley, Julie Gozan, Meg Lyttle, Nicky Fonger, Ashley Bloomer, Tarrie Newton, Julie Gozan, Brigit Burt, Amelia Lefevre, Ali Jackson Popp, Eric Ferguson, Susan and Matthew Fuller, Hande Salman, Brenda and Michael Provost, Lesley Porcelli, Jonathan Hecht, Katie McDonald, Karissa Herrador, Brian Jacobson, Karen Deaton, Breanne McDonnell, Kari Zhe-Heimerman, Meghan Murphy, Kate LaClair, April Beier, Rhonda Veasey, Maura Ackerman

### Principal's Report-Mr. Barber

- Introduced new vice principals Ms. Ellis (Middle School) Ms. DiBello (elementary)
- Breanne McDonnell is new parent engagement facilitator--questions can be sent to Breanne, [bmcdon17@scsd.us](mailto:bmcdon17@scsd.us), will act as a go-between with Mr. Barber
- Curriculum Night is Thursday Sept 30--½ hour segments, multiple sessions offered between 5-7pm, link is on Ed Smith's website
- If unable to attend curriculum night-how will info get sent out? Teachers are creating powerpoints that could be put on a padlet on the Ed Smith website.
- Sarah and Breanne will be developing a plan for parent engagement and parent activities. There will be sessions on student data. You can reach out to Sarah, Nicole, Breanne, or Mr. Barber with any input for other sessions you'd like to see.
- What is allowed at recess? Can equipment be donated (i.e. jump rope)? Yes, but they would have to be sterilized after every use. PTO could do a survey of teachers to see what they need outside during recess.
- New quarantining guidelines--at beginning of year had to quarantine if sitting adjacent to a positive case. Now, it is 3 feet or below unmasked. Work is being provided for students that have to go remote, a packet that will be delivered and picked up, also monitoring attendance. Phone calls to check in by teachers. These new procedures have just been finalized and are getting put in place.
- Being back full time is a big adjustment from last year, in particular with busses. Kids on busses are late but getting better. Have had to change the dismissal schedule to help keep traffic flow better outside.
- In case of quarantine, Barber personally makes phone calls to those families to inform and answer questions. Remainder of class gets a letter telling them to monitor for symptoms, does not mean they are in quarantine.
- Staff vaccination levels-vaccination not mandated, but if not vaccinated have to provide a weekly negative test.
- Julie Gozan is hoping that gym classes could be held outdoors while weather is still nice outside. Barber will check in with gym teachers.
- For any questions, you can email Mr. Barber [sbarber@scsd.us](mailto:sbarber@scsd.us) or send questions to Breanne along with your name so he can get back to you.

### President's Report-Sarah Brown

- PTO Board introductions
  - Sarah Brown-President, parent of a kindergartener, 2nd grader, and 4th grader
  - Nicky Fonger-Vice President, on equity team, mathematics educator, parent of kindergartener and 4th grader

- Lee Kinnard-Treasurer, kindergartener and 2nd grader at Ed Smith
- Ashley Bloomer-Recording Secretary, 5th and 1st grader
- Eric Ferguson-Corresponding Secretary, 5th grader
- Rhonda Veasey-Community Outreach Coordinator, 8th grader
- Karly Grifasi-past president of PTO, gets to stay on the Board, 4 years of PTO Board experience
- Meghan Murphy-Teacher Representative, parent of 2 kids at Ed Smith, graduate of Ed Smith, and works at Ed Smith teaching intervention
- Feel free to reach out to anyone on the Board with questions or comments
- As a caregiver of students attending Ed Smith, you are a member of the PTO, and you help us vote and approve items including the budget.

### **Budget-Lee Kinnard**

- Budget was hard to put together due to still being in middle of pandemic, uncertainty about which events we will be able to hold this year.
- PTO raises money for community events such as carnival, field trips, book giveaways. Raised \$10K in 2020 for laptops. Fundraisers include gear sale, wreath sale, ski sale, yearbook, art auction. Monetary Contributions include Giving Tuesday, Go Fund Me, Box Tops, AmazonSmile, recurring or one-time contributions.
- April Beier suggested lowering BoxTops total in the budget due to scanning receipts instead of clipping boxtops. You download the app, and scan the receipt.
- Ski sale has been nixed this year. Looking at renaming it and having it as an outdoor sports event in the Spring.
- Inclusion committee money is childcare money for when Inclusion committee met, does not look like they will need these funds this year (Kate Saufley)
- Jill Ferguson proposed revising Book Giveaway income down since Fall book sale will be online.
- Explanation of Book Giveaway-Scholastic has a book fair twice a year, with a book giveaway that we were able to have in-person last year, where every child gets to pick one free book.
- Field trips are a big expense that could fluctuate this year.
- Net loss of \$3400 is offset by PTO having \$28K in bank- 3k is earmarked and can't be touched, 8k from Chiefs money is set aside to spend consciously, can be discussed in future.

### **Teacher Requests-Lee Kinnard**

- Approved Chelsey Unczur's (resource classroom) request for \$90 to buy 9 books, picked out by students for book study
- Approved Ann Rodak's request for \$369 to buy a school mascot costume, to be used for special events at school

### **Teacher Portable Microphone Funding Request Nicky Fonger**

- Teachers were surveyed on their interest in using a Portable Teacher Microphone, which assists students and adults with the complexity of teaching with masks by providing clear

auditory sounds. Based on positive data from teacher surveys (23 teachers wanted to use) PTO would like to move forward with purchasing these devices due to immediate need with students not able to hear teachers, and teachers having to pull masks down in order to be heard in class, along with noise from each room using 2 air purifiers, street noise from windows being open.

- Ms. Canastrere already uses the device, attached around ear with small microphone in front of mouth, able to wear a mask while wearing, needs charging once a week. Suggestion that district should be funding this through pandemic money. Concern that if we wait on covid budget then teachers will never receive them.
- What to do with these devices after covid? Possibility of being used on stage with future theatre productions, teachers could still use after masks so that they do not strain voices.
- Brigit Burt motioned to approve \$1500 for the devices. Eric Larson amended the motion to give someone 1 day to test compatibility with theatre operations, while supporting \$1500. Voted to approve, none opposed. Kate Saufley abstained from voting.

### **Fundraising Committee**

- PTO is forming a new fundraising committee this year. Email, call or text to let Sarah know you want to be a part of that committee.
- Spirit Gear Sale-Ali Poppovich, 2nd year being involved. Will have a virtual store, simplified from last year, a flyer will be sent out. Shipped to school for pickup so we don't have the large shipping cost that we had last year. Runs for about 3 weeks-looking at possibly end of October to beginning of November. Any questions or comments can be sent to [amjack02@gmail.com](mailto:amjack02@gmail.com)

### **Open Discussion**

- Idea of keeping a list of people interested in volunteering for upcoming events. School pictures might need PTO volunteer assistance.
- Bussing issues-interest in helping out with transportation, providing rides or carpool. Julie Gozan notes in past we have provided rides for families that needed them. As a parent initiative it can be organized as an effort where the school is not involved to avoid liability issues. If you think you can help out with providing transportation, please reach out to Breanne.
- Delay Packs--snack box donations of individually packed food, juice boxes, or coloring books for students with long bus wait times. Breanne will check with Barber to see if food, delay pack donations can be brought directly to school.
- PTO has a venmo account that ppl can donate directly to @edsmith-ptd or can contact Lee Kennard [lee.kennard@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kennard@gmail.com) if you don't have venmo and would like to donate.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm. Next meeting is Thursday October 28th 7pm.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Bloomer