

General PTO Meeting Minutes
Pocopson Elementary School
October 9th, 2018

Attendees:

Attendance Sheet Attached.

Meeting Opened at 7:12 pm

Eileen Day welcomed the group and led introductions

Mr. Beaver welcomed and introduced our PE teachers Tara Anciborenko and Allison Tester and our Art teacher Mrs. Hage.

Fun Run photos slide show presented to highlight the Patriot Pride Campaign.

Short video of the color run was shown.

Mr. Beaver introduced our Special Area Teachers - Physical Education and Art.

Physical Education Curriculum Discussion:

Tara led the introduction for the curriculum for first through fifth grade. She explained they get to see the kids 60 times, with normally two classes going on at one time. She explained how the gym is divided into two areas. The year begins with small and large motor skills, routines and cooperative activities. Then, manipulative skills like dribbling, over and underhand rolling are added in. Finally, games toward the end of the year. Muscular strength and endurance are a large part of the curriculum. She highlighted how the PTO has funded a lot of the equipment used. First and Second grade curriculum is similar, but Third grade bumps up into more skilled and health related parts of fitness. Rockwall, rope climbing, heavy ropes, and muscular strengthening. This year the district purchased heart monitors that will be shared amongst the elementary schools. We'll get them for about three months. They're watches, not waistbands. For now, Third through Fifth grade will be using them to see how they go. Our school is considered as two schools due to our size, so we get to have them for a little longer than other schools with smaller enrollment.

Health curriculum is for Third through Fifth. Due to this, Library is lost once a cycle, gaining health. Mostly body systems... skin, teeth, hair, etc. fourth grade goes into nutrition, starting with a Halloween lesson about candy and sugar. Next comes the muscular systems, different types of muscles and identifying them in class. Next is the nervous system and finish with a drug unit.

Fifth grade begins again with body systems, and then moves into human growth and development program. For this part of the curriculum, parents need to sign off for their child to participate.

The space is shared well, between large and small sides.

They're doing more to include parents and help share what they're doing in class. They've even started Instagram and Twitter accounts

Question/Answer Section

Parent Question Asked - Do students ever get to go outside for gym?

Answer: They do have a couple lessons outside, but the large hill makes it a little difficult in case kids get hurt, etc. Time also makes it difficult to use the outdoor areas, since they need to account for organizing the students and then walking them up and down the large hill.

Mr. Beaver re-assured the parents that there is no wasted time. They're always working and learning and having fun. Working down the hill limits class time due to the amount of time to go up and down the hill safely.

Parent Question Asked - Health Question - Since they do the drug lesson, are teachers also bringing in a discussion about vaping?

Answer: Nancy is on the Health and Wellness Board and they went to the SAD club and Tattoo club. Statistics show that smoking is out and vaping is now the bigger problem. They've reached out to the SAD and Tattoo to have them come in and discuss with the fourth graders, to address the concerns and give information.

Eileen Day added that we at the school level or even the district on a larger level would like to have a meeting surrounding the whole vaping issue. Hopefully to provide education and information to help inform parents about what this problem actually is. It's something we're all concerned with and trying to figure out what the issues are and what they look like even.

More feedback came from parents stating that they agree they'd like more information about the new vaping issues.

Parent Question Asked: Is there homework for Health class?

Answer: No, generally not. In Fifth grade, there are quizzes and assessments in preparation for the homework health classes will give in Sixth grade.

Parent Question Asked: Why is there no PE for kindergarteners?

Answer: Mr. Beaver answered that there has really never been. It's not been a priority within the Kindergarten curriculum since it's only a half day program. They do try to add in stations or gym time throughout the year and also get to come into a class with their

Fifth grade buddies. Kindergarten students are also able to be included in the Field Day and Fun Run activities.

A cardiovascular warm-up dance is always a hit. They actually choreograph them and decide on the music.

In closing, Nancy and Allison talked about the Talent Show and it was noted that they choreograph the staff number. The theme hasn't been decided for this year yet, but it will be good.

They were thanked and Mr. Beaver introduced Sam Hage.

Art Curriculum Discussion

Sam Hage is our Art teacher and currently has four sections.

Portraits - She begins the year with portraits. She brought samples in to show off to parents. Students complete a self portrait and also a fun project, like jack o lanterns, during Halloween. Students are given choice in their materials. Fifth graders will have something along those same lines, but also with more specific instructions.

Figure Drawing is Second. Younger students are using basic geometric shapes, but by Fifth grade, they're expected to be able to "Math Out" the body of their project.

Sam gave an example of how to draw a mouth by coming straight down from their pupils.

Two projects will be completed for each section.

The third section is Color Theory

First they learn the color wheel, Second is learning color schools, but by Fifth grade, it's more in depth with their schemes.

Third grade will have "factories" where they have to develop their colors, mixing and creating using what they've learned.

Fourth section is Environment.

Fifth graders complete landscapes. They're supposed to be meaningful to them. Is it Hank's or Longwood Gardens? Whatever it is, bring in a picture and they'll start to work on it. They're using mixed media, water colors, oil paints, whatever they've chosen. By the end, it's a large 18x36 project. Her goal is to be able to have them not only create art, but to also speak about their art.

Pocopson Art in the Community

They've had shows going on at the Brandywine Tourism and also at the District Office. She's hoping to get into the Chadds Ford Historical Society.

We now have the Great Pumpkin Carve in our entry. All children will be invited to participate. They can bring in their art, the staff will vote on their favorites and she'll have prizes.

She plays music, tries to make it fun and models a working art studio.

Question/Answer Section

Parent Question Asked: Does Art do a field trip?

Answer: She'd love to, but not as of yet. She'd love to have to take her Fifth graders on a field trip to learn about the Wyeth's. They were beautiful and parents loved them.

She was recently at the township meeting, where they purchased the Pyle Studio. Maybe the Brandywine River Museum, or even to do that type of activity on the weekends.

Parent Question Asked: What are the opportunities to do multi-dimensional projects?

Answer: Not too much, due to storage issues. Wayne Tebow a California artist who creates sculptures having to do with baked goods is always a popular discussion with the students. She'd love to incorporate more, but really, the space limits her ability.

The tin reliefs were mentioned. She uses roofing foil, cuts it up and has the kids do a relief. Last year they did hot air balloons, painted clouds and glued them onto the reliefs.

Parent Question Asked: How can parents help to nurture the interest in art? How can it be incorporated for kids at home?

Answer: She suggested videos showing projects. She hopes that she nurtures all the children and even offers recess times for kids to come in and create using supplies that weren't needed anymore and be able to work listening to KidzBop.

Sam ended by saying she'd always love to have a part time or full time volunteer in her classes.

Mr. Beaver added that her endeavor to get student's art out in the community is awesome. He likes to brag that the district office is covered in Pocopson artwork!

Treasurer's Report - Led by Kate McHale

The financials this month are a little tricky. We have a lot of activities at the end of the month such as the Family Fun Night and also Patriot Pride Campaigning.

- The Patriot Pride is actually a little low, we are waiting on a about \$2,000 more to be posted, but we think we'll come in right around our goal of \$15,000. Plus, the link for online donations is still open people are still able to contribute!!
- Spirit Wear was highlighted. The \$2,700 showing was just from sales online and back to school night. Cash purchases are still waiting to be tallied from our Family Fun Night. We have well exceeded the \$375 budgeted income from last year. All of that is credited to Janice Michels. She's just killing it and bringing in this unexpected revenue.
- Box Tops will be coming up in November.
- She also mentioned the Activities check from the District.
- She highlighted that the planners and green bus notes are paid for by the PTO. Along with the Back to School night assembly.
- Family Fun Night is not meant to be a fundraiser, it's supposed to be a community building activity.
- A few back to school teacher events along with all of the Red Pocopson shirts we give to the new students and kindergarteners.

Teacher Grants were explained. The PTO gives each teacher an initial grant of \$250 each year, to supplement what the district gives them. We're starting to see some of those reimbursement requests come in.

She asked for any feedback attendees might have about the Patriot Pride Campaign.

Eileen reminded everyone about their Giant purchases. Using the Giant APlus Rewards passive fundraising program, we received over \$1,000 last year, without any active fundraising.

Patriot Pride Campaign WrapUp and Group Feedback

A question was asked about prizes given based on monies raised. Eileen explained that we've kind of shied away from giving out prizes. We feel that doesn't really convey what we're doing.

It's also really nice that we just have the one big fundraiser. That we're not hawking wrapping paper or cookies all year.

Eileen asked about any other feedback, the good, the bad or the ugly? We might have a new twist on the run, maybe a glow run indoors? Was there any feedback?

Parents said it was all positive. All of their kids were happy with the fun run and with the communication.

As far as advertising, they thought it was done well.

Grant Proposals for Staff:

At last weeks Executive Meeting, we reviewed the additional grant proposals and decided to forward all of them on. We are in favor of funding all of the grants requested.

(Grant request sheet attached.)

Eileen reviewed each grant item briefly and gave her take on what the items are and how they've been used.

Discussion opened for questions:

Where did the money come from for these items? The PTO funds the grant request using monies raised during events like the Patriot Pride Campaign and Art and Garden.

Upcoming Projects

Entry Banners: Ten new banners have been ordered to be put up on the lamp posts into the parking areas. They just need to be approved by Mr. Beaver and then they'll be ordered. They'll have positive messages.

Kindness messaging. We're wanting to add in kindness and positive messaging into different areas within the school. We're reaching out to local artists to try to accomplish this project.

Our Wellness Trail. We're going to be refurbishing our walking trail. Strides and Girls on the Run use the trail along with some of our teachers use the trail throughout the days.

Garden Updates. Our organic garden is being updated. They've grown pumpkins, marigolds, tomatoes, etc. We had a UHS grad come in and clean up the space for us in preparation of the new school year.

Ashland Nature Center has been contacted to collaborate on an student gardening club.

Outdoor pond. It's been neglected and ignored over the years, but we're now working with Longwood to try to create a sensory garden. Somehow the koi have survived and the waterfall still works.

Upcoming Dates:

Square 1 Art: in Art class, each child creates a piece of art and we are able to purchase items with their artwork on them.

Halloween Parade: It is on Halloween and it is in the morning. PM Kindergarten does their own parade. HR parents will be getting in touch with parents to organize their Halloween parties.

November 6th is Election Day

November 7th is Diwali and we have no school.

November 9th is our Veteran's Day assembly. It's not generally open to parents, but any active or retired members of the military are welcome to participate.

November 9th is the beginning of our hat and mitten drive. We work with Stonehurst as our sister school. Their notes of thank you were really touching last year. We also have a Giving Tree, with a lot of Pocopson families as well as other local families. These wrap up the second week of December and we'll deliver after that.

November 13th - Mr. Carter will be able to present. He'll share curriculum as well as information on social media. Information about Parental controls and also maybe predators through gaming.

Eileen thanked the parents for coming.