

Forest Dale Elementary PTO All Parent Meeting Agenda  
January 26, 2020 @6:30 via Zoom

**Executive Board Members:**

Co-Presidents: Monica Craig & Erin Zoch  
Co-Vice Presidents: Mary Michael Gulden & Alisha Pankiw  
Treasurer: Debbie Avery  
Assistant Treasurer: Joy Boake  
Recording Secretary: Liz Evans  
Corresponding Secretary: Lauren Holden  
Past Presidents: Pam Fallowfield & Shannon Pongratz

Call to order: A FDE PTO All Parent Meeting was held via Zoom on January 26, 2021. Attendees included Sara Inskeep, Monica Craig, Erin Zoch, Mary Michael Gulden, Alisha Pankiw, Liz Evans, Lauren Holden, Shannon Pongratz,, special guest Francisco Zepeda, Neil Miller, Jeffrey Gray, Becky White, Andrea Flannery, Julia Doyle, Elise & Jim, Heather Morrison, Me Lanie, Amy Charles, Rachel Hobbs, Lucelby, Rachel Freitas, Adelina Priddis, Amie Paradise, Catherine Elder, Laura Ridderman, Julie Cahill, Melanie Pride, Kelli Sims, Lauren Campagna, Benjamin Isack, Joel Schaafsma, Gine Londino-Smolar, Kimberl, Sanjay Yesi, Lesley Pierce, Hannah Casimiro, Jean Lloyd, Natasha Reilly, Elise May, Virenda Summanwar, Kristin Stout, Gregory Boake, Harun

1. Welcome and Approval of October Minutes- Monica Craig & Erin Zoch (Co-Presidents)
  - A motion to approve October minutes was made, seconded & all were in favor. Minutes approved.
2. Guest Speaker: FDE/St. Vincent's Licensed Behavioral Counselor - Francisco Zepeda
  - This position allows students to get mental health services while in school & also allows family therapy if needed within the school. Every school in Carmel has a staffed therapist. Confidentiality is intact as it is considered out-patient therapy.
  - Ascension has also given us a Behavioral Technician- this role is to follow treatment plan set forth for student. We also have the benefit of access to a nurse at the stress center.
  - Everything is billed through insurance. If there is no insurance available, Ascension St Vincent has an option available to the student as well.
  - Francisco sees students with anxiety, depression, grief, ADHD, self-esteem, divorce issues. He uses Parent-Child Interaction Therapy—evidence-based therapy that places an emphasis on eliminating certain words from parenting/ negative words & focus on the positive.
  - Francisco will also be heading to Orchard Park to see some of those students. Some therapists are trained in Spanish to help when needed.
  - Question asked about impact of Covid on younger children? Francisco believes the children present behavior that they are seeing at home. Use their strengths to help them express emotions (drawing etc). Listen, understand if they are struggling. Will forward materials to Erin that might be helpful for distribution to parents.
  - Question asked about ADD/ADHD testing- the psychologist at the school can do the testing.
3. Principal's Report - "State of Forest Dale" – Sara Inskeep
  - Enrollment is 649 students. Still in person & offering virtual.
  - Excited for Valentine's Day parties 1:30-2pm on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. Please do NOT send candy!
  - PTO has funded some exciting items recently including some automatic hand sanitizer machines & a new water bottle filling station.
4. 2021-2022 Middle School and Elementary School Transition Activities- Monica & Erin
  - Middle School- starting Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, the District will send out a video about performing arts, as well as scheduling information. Feb 8<sup>th</sup>- middle school principals will begin visiting the elementary

schools. Various other activities throughout the Spring. No information about transportation exceptions at this time.

- Elementary- mid Feb, an email will go out from principals to kids who will be redistricted next year. End of March, principals will visit schools & students. Throughout Spring there will be other various activities, Zoom calls, postcards from kids at one school to another. Summer- open houses.
- With these transitions, our goal for FDE PTO is begin welcoming the new children from Orchard Park & their families to our school. We would also like to welcome new parents to join the PTO. If anyone has friends coming to our school, please forward their information over so we can be sure to include them.

#### 5. New School Gifts- Monica

- The PTO fundraises throughout the year with events like the Fun Run & Silent Auction. The dollars raised fund various things but one big line item is gifts back to the school. This year's gifts are as follows:
  - Hand sanitizer machines- two more purchased, one in media center & one in the cafeteria. The third one was purchased by book fair committee and has been placed in front office.
  - Water bottle filler- two more will be installed in opposite side of school from where they currently are. Great for kids who are now bringing their water bottles to school every day.
  - Nurse Stevens requested more masks. We purchased 60 youth & 20 adult masks for her from Old Navy.

#### 6. Staff Appreciation Events- Erin

- This year, it has been a priority of the PTO to recognize our teachers for putting in so much extra work. Some of the money budgeted to go into special events that have been cancelled has been reallocated to go into staff appreciation events.
- We have had a welcome back snack station, coffee bar right before break & donut truck in October. Everything has had to be pre-packaged.
- Annually, PTO hosts numerous appreciation events for the various positions within the school— front office, counselors, custodians, teachers, cafeteria staff.
- In Feb, we will be asking parents for flowers, potted plants, chocolates & will hold a raffle for teachers to choose a card & pick a gift. Sign Up Genius will be sent out for parents to sign up.
- If anyone knows of a local business/ food truck that can help support any of these types of events, please reach out & let us know. We would love to support local. All of this is funded by parents who contribute to our school so thank you!

#### 7. Book Fair Update- Julie Cahill

- Great event this year, teachers loved it, so many parents stepped up to help out, kids had a great time, loved having this event as a sense of normalcy! One of our best years despite not having parent shoppers. Many online sales.
- Funds raised through book fair were reviewed. \$15,000 raised—this goes back to the media center. She uses funds to purchase books from Scholastic, also can purchase outside of Scholastic. Ms Arnold was very excited to be able to replenish books in the library.
- Our All For Books donations were highest they have been (more than \$344), we purchased 152 books for kids at FDE for their At Home Libraries.