

Red Pine PTO Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2021 @ 630 PM CST

Present: Amy Bailey, Mark Moret, Amber Fagan, Beth Kaiser, Drew Goeldner, Kate Amlee, and Mary Arneson

Next Meeting: Thursday 6, 2022, 6:30 pm

1) Welcome and Introductions (ALL)

2) Principal's Update (Drew Goeldner)

- Our district is embarking on a new strategic planning process. They have been working on a few years with Teamwork's. This company works with a lot of districts within the metro. A month ago, they brought in staff from all different ranges of experience within the district. Shared out what was happening that year when that employee got hired. They talked through what's going on and mixed groups. It was a sampling of the eras. Talked through the highlights. It was an internal process, and it was unique. Trying to get external people – parents and secondary students. Focus groups. Mr. G asked the PTO about. The district will pull together the
- COVID cases slowed down once making changes to the school day. Eating in the lunchroom, putting students in rows, and extra filters in the classroom. Proud of the staff and how they handled the increases cases and how they are handling any hurdles that have presented to the staff.

3) Treasurer's Reports (Amber Fagan)

- Budget Update

Cash Balance of \$65,626 as of 10/7/21, including special designations (Minimum Required Bank Balance of \$5000, Gary Anger Scholarship Fund (\$4500 = \$9500).

- ADD: Corporate Donations, & Donations (AmazonSmile, Thomas Reuters, Garten's, Box Tops, Benevity Community Impact Fund)
  - Less: Spring conferences, spring event, PTO operating, Kiln, Families in need, Kindergarten shirts, Party money reimbursements

Cash Balance of \$38,326 as of 12/3/21 (including special designations)

4) New Business (All)

2021/2022 Budget Review

- We essentially have the left-over money we got from Boosterthon and after everything we have allocated and identified for this year, we have money left over that we want to put back into the school.
- Drew to share staff recommendations on funding: He went back to the team leaders and in previous years there was always a line item of amount of money for each grade. Going into the year there were only a few grades that had a line item.
  - Team leaders responded with their lists. Kindergarten – red shirts. 1<sup>st</sup> grade – wants more books (they talked about their books that they get from the resource library. It brought up a broader conversation of to get more books and keep them in the classroom and not go to the literacy library. Theme of books. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – traditionally had the puppet lady come in. Focused on bringing field trip experiences in. If they come across an experience that has a fee, can they

use it. 2<sup>nd</sup> grad got someone from the Eagan Police department to come and meet with them. Picnic table – places to sit outside. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Storyworks for next year (curious to see what a schoolwide subscription would be so we wouldn't have to pay in for it). Current events through kids' language. Storyworks is becoming more used throughout the grade levels. 4<sup>th</sup> grade – few years ago they flexible seating options in the classroom. In each of our rooms a few years ago had wiggle stools. They could wiggle and move around. 5<sup>th</sup> grade books (they wants sets of books for the small groups). Every grade level different needs.

- We can allocate an X amount to each grade and then to specialists. We don't have enough to give a super meaningful amount of money. If every grade gets \$1000 is that enough? The literacy library is a need is \$1000 enough? Do we dedicate this year's money to get books? It must be even by grade. We should have a point of view if we need to allocate to specialists or not.
- We want to give the money back, but the biggest fear do we need to take a year to dedicate books across the school and not do the other stuff. Kindergarten gets their red shirts, and we don't want to take that away from them.
- Do we figure out a set dollar amount for each grade level? Specialists are another silo. Factor in the number of students. Per student = \$ amount.
- Drew going back to the team and the set amount of money. What do you want to spend money on?
- Scholarships for the party money – we need to make sure this doesn't happen. Families should not have to worry about it. On average by grade how many families may need a scholarship? This will help for future budget and forecasting. Earmark pool for this specific reason.
- Our school family is very generous. How do we create the opportunity for people to donate to help students?
- The school has two budgets to work with. Operating and Miscellaneous. Operating budget gets set after 10/1 (kick in a formula that spits out a FTE). Using the money not for adding another FTE we'd have fewer teachers and support in the school. It is trying to find the nice medium to have enough people and have enough financial needs. \$7 a student per grade for the budget from our operating budget.
  - Example of using the miscellaneous budget for school stuff. Students in kindergarten and first grade get a crown and a name tag on their desk. Some of the extra wants they want form that operating budget goes out because they must pick and choose, and it is the trickle-down effect. Extra salaries that we are set up for. Misc. fund is things that money can go in and out of. Field trip money or anything the PTO Reimburses us that's where it goes to. This year Red Pine came out in the black. Classroom teachers are receiving money, but it is finite and there are more needs.
- Families in Need earmark in the budget. \$1500 as a placeholder in the preliminary budget. Looking at the budgets in the past. Mr. Goeldner will talk with the social worker. In the past years the PTO would buy gift cards to help these families.
- Drew is going to create a multi-year plan of the grade wants from the PTO Budget.
- We need to talk about what the PTO has done with the money. We don't want the perception that the PTO is sitting on this money from year to year. We need to tell the story to the parents of how we are spending the money. If we raise \$30,000 this year,

will we spend it? Do we need to do a fundraiser and raise \$30,000 next year? What is the public's opinion of these fundraisers?

- We need morale boosting events that kids enjoy being at. i.e., welcome back event.
- Stand behind the giving tree for red pine families. Collect things that families need within the school family.

#### 5) Committee Updates

- Fall 2022 Fundraiser: Discuss options – Boosterthon vs. inhouse fundraiser (direct drives)
  - The makeup of this school has very been it is hard to volunteer their time. The Welcome back event volunteers was just the PTO.
  - We pay a lot out of pocket to the vendor, but we raise a lot of money.
  - Doing a direct drive that we wouldn't raise as much money and all the work would be on the PTO. If there was a committee that could own it and put time in to do it, but it would be a struggle to get people to volunteer. When schools did it on their own the amount of money they raised was drastically cut. We couldn't generate 60K if we don't have a company do it. We don't have the volunteers to pull this off within our community. Negative of direct drive – there is no community building. There is nothing to it. There wasn't an event. They had special days but nothing to end of.
    - If Red Pine goes to the direct drive, we need a committee it can't be the board only. Other schools who have successfully done it had a committed committee
    - Go back to Boosterthon and negotiate on the percentage they take doing this event.
      - We want your energy
      - We don't want rewards/prizes because of the dollar amount that the child brought in.
      - Day of event for Boosterthon is so fun. We need to get rid of the prizes and competition. The fun of the event day was awesome.
- Reminder: Mason Jar Takeout Tuesday is January 18th, 2022

#### 6) Open Forum