

Towanda PTO
Meeting Minutes 11-1-21

- Principal's Notes: Mr. Vogel
 - Thank you for lunch during Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Kids are settling in well
 - If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out.
 - Staff Morale – at Towanda we are doing well. We have no staff shortages (other than **Noon hour supervisors – please reach out if you or anyone you know is interested in the noon hour supervisor positions**). We have good substitutes – it is a good way for parents to get into the schools during a time when parents aren't generally in the schools.
 - Halloween parade videos are on Instagram
 - Spirit wear will be in on 11-2 and start to come home with students
 - Trying to organize a book fair!
- President: Lora Weigman
 - PTO President Lunch – with Dr. Weikle, Dana Brown (communications), and all PTO presidents
 - From a parent POV, school is nearly normal
 - From a teacher POV, things are not normal – there are learning gaps, behavior issues, sub shortages, bus driver shortages (results in students arriving late regularly)
 - We need to focus on what positive work PTO can do – how we can welcome families and encourage teachers and students
 - CAC – **Citizens Advisory Council**
 - Attendees include the superintendent, school board representatives, and two representatives from each school
 - Lora is our only representative for Towanda. We have another slot – **if anyone is interested, they should reach out to Lora or Mr. Vogel.**
 - This is an awesome opportunity to get involved
- Treasurer: Naomi Arndt
 - Beginning of October: \$ 4390.20
 - Spent: \$ 1958.87
 - Earned: \$ 1970
 - End of October: \$ 4401.33
 - Scrip has earned \$145 for the year so far!
 - New Scrip orders are due Friday
 - **Panda Express is an option for Scrip!**
 - New, smaller amount options have been added that are perfect for Christmas gifts
 - Dine to Donate
 - Chipotle Earned \$455! This is much higher than our usual earnings!
 - **Panda Express will be on November 16th – we will earn 20% of what you spend**
 - We have been approved for Krispy Kreme sales. Naomi will make an order form.
 - We will sell codes for a dozen glazed donuts for \$11 and earn \$5.50 for PTO
 - Coffee Cake sales were looked into. Determined that the potential earnings for PTO were not enough.

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- Fundraising Ideas
 - Unraiser Letter – will go out soon
 - Walk a thon – has been decided, tentatively set for spring
 - Initial contact with Get Movin’ has been made
 - Used Book Sale – tentatively set for spring
 - We will organize communications to identify what items can be accepted and when
 - Leftover items will be donated and not returned
 - Electronics Drive – Ewaste recycling fundraiser
 - Phones, electronics, ink cartridges...
 - Details on item drop off location need to be determined
 - Dates, communications plan
 - January is looking good
 - Sarah Nix will take point – thank you!
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Alternative Deck the Halls
 - Traditionally Deck the Halls is a night when students and their families come together to decorate the school for the holidays. There are snacks, ornament crafts, a mega paper chain, photo booth... That can’t happen this year.
 - Lora will check the leftover supplies to see if a craft kit could be sent home with students so they can still bring in an ornament and part of a paper chain to decorate the school.
 - Holiday Character Gram Store
 - Students can purchase up to two gifts using their character grams
 - Maybe we can pair it with the book fair Mr. Vogel is trying to get
 - We could make amazon wish lists so parents can contribute to the store
 - Staff Holiday Gifts/Appreciation
 - Previously we have given \$30 gift cards to full time staff and \$20 or \$10 to part time staff. This cost approximately \$900 each year
 - Last year we had a secret Santa situation. Staff was given a gift each day for a week leading up to break. Mr. Vogel says this was very well received. Naomi says we spent considerably less.
 - For the next meeting, we should brainstorm ideas for the daily gifts
 - There are about 25 staff in the building each day.
- Future Business
 - Maybe teachers could provide “wish lists” at the beginning of the year for parents who want to pitch in to help fund
- Important Dates
 - November 16th - Panda Express Dine to Donate– we will earn 20% of what you spend
 - December 6th – Next PTO Meeting
- How Can We Help?
 - Come to the next PTO meeting with ideas for holiday gifts for school staff.
 - Participate in the Unraiser

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- Use Scrip if you plan to purchase gift cards for Christmas gifts
- Amazon Smile – choose Towanda PTO for your Amazon Smile account to earn money for PTO while shopping
- Kroger – connect your Kroger card to Towanda PTO to earn money for school for shopping
- Don't declutter your old books or electronics just yet. Save them for a future sale/collection.
- If you are a State Farm Employee and spend any time volunteering for the school, please contact Kristine Koerner (sebestak88@gmail.com).
- Attendees
 - Lori Hoskins
 - Sarah Nix
 - Lyndsay Sellitto
 - Brandi Rockwell
 - Heather Ferman
 - Kristine Koerner
 - Naomi Arndt
 - Scott Vogel
 - Lora Weigman
 - Michelle Panizzi