

September PTO Meeting Minutes:

Board Updates:

- Ms. Beecham Updates: There is a student this year that requires a wheelchair/walker and the student body and teachers want him to be able to use more of the playground. Learned that there may be a swing that SSD has, but we need to get it installed. Ms. Beecham is keeping us updated in case there is anything else that the student needs.
- Have not heard much more on the basketball hoops yet. This was something that was requested by students. Sarah suggested making this a focus of the Wolf-A-Thon.
- Teacher Wish List: Every year each teacher gets \$400 to supplement their classroom based on the projected number of students coming to Givens. There is a teacher wishlist that teachers place expensive items on and leftover funds are used to purchase those items. Alex & Kate suggested adding a page to the Givens website. Ms. Beecham is going to re-format the existing wishlist so that it can be shared more broadly.
- Mitch mentioned there is a line item for Teacher requests for \$1700, and suggested proactively requesting items traditionally each year.
- Ending curriculum night and is hoping to partner on those events. There is an existing committee that is working on those events that meets on Tuesdays. Ms. Beecham is going to take that idea of partnering back to the committee.
 - Why are we moving away from curriculum night: The observation was that it was not well attended. An idea is to make it more collaborative where the parents/families/caregivers can see the strategies being used with their students.
- Hiring for one aid right now to help with late start supervision, subbing and more.
- Asked about interest in a "State of the Union" style update

Quick Links:

[2023-24 District Calendar](#) - Full View

[Most updated Staff Favorite Things list](#)

[Spirit Wear Store](#)

[PTO Page on school/district site](#)

[Staff List 2023-24](#)

1. Updates

- a. Principal and Staff Updates
- b. Questions/follow-ups from PTO:
 - i. School needs / purchases
 1. Need for wheelchair-accessible swing

2. Recess bags and Gaga Ball Pit are taken care of
 3. Status of Basketball hoops - were on backorder still this summer. It is unlikely that the basketball court down by football field will be re-done anytime soon. Ms. Beecham would like to move the hoops up to the area by the playground.
 4. Can we have access to view the staff/classroom wish lists? Teacher gifts - bigger-ticket items and the Staff Wishlists for classrooms
 - a. Have Ms. Beecham explain budget and year-to-year rollover
 - b. Look into / reach out to Edgar Rd and Hixson PTO - they do mini-grants for bigger-ticket items for teachers, see how those work
 5. A school committee is working on events to do instead of "Curriculum Night", which they're scrapping - thinking maybe STEM-focused - this could be a collaborative event with PTO?
- ii. Still hiring for aides?
- c. Executive Board Updates
- i. Ms. Beecham Update - Thank you extended for the decorations on the first day of school, the snack cart and the Back to School Bash.
 - ii. Also a note that we are still hiring aids!
 - iii. Presidents
 1. Approve minutes: Not applicable this month
 2. [W PTO Board Positions.docx](#) & Sarah P will be trying to make a MOCHA chart soon
 3. Parent who needs help with pre-Adventure Club morning short childcare and rideshare
 - a. What is earliest time for AC morning dropoff?
6:20
 4. PTO Closet - new closet, status, need for moving/organizing later
 - a. Ms. Beecham said PTO can keep a corner of the KDG hallway storage closet.
 5. Kindergarten signs update - Sarah apologized for not having the KDG signs as they were in the storage pods at the beginning of the year and inaccessible.
 6. Recap of District PTO Leadership retreat

- a. Follow-up meeting on “Umbrella” org and 501(c)3 designation
 - b. Funding of Camp Wyman - kind of complicated right now
 - c. PTO group on ParentSquare
- iv. Vice Presidents
 - 1. Madeline - Update on Room Parent Sign Ups. All rooms have at least one parent signed up. It's going to be in the upcoming gazette.
 - 2. Sarah suggested adding the Room Parent Sign Up to the PTO website too.
- v. Secretaries
 - 1. Alex - Recap of Back to School Bash
 - 2. Updates on PTO Page on school/district site
 - a. More information on fundraising and understanding what PTO is doing.
- vi. Treasurers
 - 1. Conversation on budgeting for events, etc if anyone has questions
 - a. On track with Back to School Bash, Chess club earned \$84 on cookies.
 - b. Under budget for welcome back lunch for teachers. Ms. Beecham suggested sending some options that the teachers could vote on them for the next teacher luncheon.
 - 2. Venmo - now has fees?
 - 3. Budget Review
 - 4. Recent Income
- vii. Equity
 - 1. District BBQ recap
 - a. Good feedback from Yorba on the District BBQ. Givens partnered with Hudson and Avery to host a table.
 - 2. Chess Club
 - a. Many people showing interest. Working on funding ideas or wording the fees that lets parents know how much the club costs.
 - 3. Other GAP events
 - 4. Open positions on the Givens Achievement Potential board position

2. Upcoming Events & Activities

- a. September 17th: Givens Day at the Ball Park
 - i. More helpers potentially needed to walk kids to the field to sing - we have ~125
 - ii. All tickets are sold!
- b. Other events: We don't have dates set yet for some events, like Trivia, **Fall Festival**, **Wolf-a-Thon** either. Discuss timeline on deciding on these.
 - i. Fall Festival in October - the dance party in the gym became a bit of a free-for-all - alternatives? S'mores were great/very popular. Movie in cafeteria didn't work as well.
 - ii. Ms. Beecham says we could bring in "stories around a campfire" storyteller
 - iii. Ms. Beecham has some other parents wanting to do other events/activities - what would these look like? How to stay equitable/question of holidays

3. Ongoing Business

- a. Fundraising
 - i. Dining Out – This is being handled this year by the Dine Out committee - which are the same 3 parents acting as Social Coordinators. Nothing is yet set up but in the process of resuming with our regulars, restarting with Hacienda, and looking at new places.
 - 1. Let us know if there are new places to try or where you have a contact!
 - ii. Raise Right - Who is currently in charge of this?
 - iii. [Spirit Wear Store](#) — Open - Store will close for the month of December, and re-open at the beginning of the new year. Be sure to place all orders by November 15th to ensure delivery in this time. Teachers & Staff can get a staff discount code from Ms. Beecham.
 - iv. Goal for this year - looking into grants available through Webster Groves SD foundation and how we can get stuff funded from them
- b. Web & Social Media
 - i. New PTO Page and Facebook pages & Groups - any questions?

- ii. We can add language to the Fundraising section on the WHY and what funds raised by PTO go to - also a list of what our budget went to / some special items/initiatives last year?
 - iii. ParentSquare
- c. Volunteer Needs
 - i. Campus Beautification - status, need for some in back of school/areas only accessible through the building
 - ii. Room Parents - We should give more quick info to all on the duties/deal with being a room parent! Reach out to teachers who still need spots filled to add this to their newsletters/parents communications? Make a post in ParentSquare?
 - 1. This was also posted on the PTO section of the Website.
 - iii. [Room Parent Sign-up status / link to sign-up sheet](#)

Current status/sign-ups:

Howard	1. Alex Guffey 2. Madeline Campise 3. Hannah Hutkins
Johnson	1. Blaine Van Leuven 2. Sarah Jacobs 3. Carmelita Nuñez 4. Stephanie simpson
Randall (Taylor)	1. Sarah Jacobs 2. Rachel Sweeney
Buckman	1. David Foster
Jauer	1. Madeline Harned
Schraut	1. Chelsea Neibert-McLean
Etzel	1. Audrey Nemeth 2. Dana Walker
Floarke	1. Madeline Harned 2. Alex Guffey
Miller	1. Emily Jenkins 2. Aamna Anwer 3. Jennifer Hug
Zenk	1. Courtney Scavotto
Gamble	1. Yorba Johnson

	2. Carmelita Nuñez
Rachell	1. Stephanie Simpson
Desriviere	1. Brandon Putz 2. Allyson Putz
Golomski	1. Jasmine Bailey 2. Courtney Scavotto 3. Jan Hoth 4. Jen Levine
Calnese	1. Sarah Middendorf
Melanson	1. Jen Keller
Pott	

d. Teacher Appreciation:

- i. Birthday appreciation / snack cart being handled by the Social Coordinator Committee this year. There are some questions/needed discussions on bringing others in or if others want to help, how to channel that - get status update from committee, how sign-ups will work, etc.
 1. Sign Up Genius now posted on the PTO Website
- ii. Wanting feedback on where to have staff meals catered in future - should probably start a spreadsheet for this with costs, etc - staff restrictions/preferences year-to-year are considered
 1. Ms. Beecham suggested providing a list of ideas for food and she could take it to the staff/teachers for them to vote on.
- iii. Teacher gifts - bigger-ticket items and the Staff Wishlists for classrooms
- iv. Sharing of costs for bigger school-wide items with school

e. Buzz Book - What is the status? Potential to do other method/format?

4. Review of Past Events:

- a. Welcome Back Luncheon - well received
- b. First day of School
- c. Boo Hoo Breakfast - well done, but potentially too hot. Considering an inside option for future.

- d. Back to School Bash - well received - close to on-budget. Waiting for final numbers from Hacienda to know exactly where the final amount came in. We had 400+ people in attendance and paid for 199+ student ice creams at \$2/per.
- e. District BBQ

5. Upcoming Dates

- a. October
 - i. Fall Festival
 - 1. Question was raised if this was shared with the fifth grade families and whether they would like the opportunity to use this as a fundraiser.
 - ii. Ninja Warrior Course Fundraiser
 - iii. Dine Outs?
- b. November
 - i. Scholastic Book Fair with Mrs Olsen?
 - 1. I believe Sarah Middendorf and Jen Levine are coordinating?
 - ii. Conferences & Teacher Meals
 - iii. Dine Outs?

Exec Board & Committee Members for 2023-24 School Year

PTO Exec Board:

- Senior President: **Sarah Paradoski**
- Junior President: **Betsy Hedrick**
- Senior VP: **Madeline Harned**
- Junior VP: **Megan Martin**
- Senior Treasurer: **Mitch Lorenz**
- Junior Treasurer: **Natasha Garcia**
- Senior Secretary: **Alex Guffey**
- Junior Secretary: **Chris Werner**
- Senior Equity Officer: **Kate Zwolak**
- Junior Equity Officer: **Yorba McQueary**

Committees / Coordinators:

- Social Coordinators: **Jamie Scott/Audrey Nemeth/Amy Escott**
- Dine Out Coordinators: **Jamie Scott/Audrey Nemeth/Amy Escott**
- Pollinator Paradise Coordinator: **Nicole Miller-Struttmann**
- Pollinator Paradise Junior Coordinator: **Open**

