

11/6 – PTO Board Meeting Notes:

- Discussed changing the Board meeting time from 6:00 to 5:45 start for future meetings. Everyone agreed that it made sense to change to that time.
- Ms. Beecham update: Shared a thank you for participating in the building for Fall into Reading and at the classroom parties. She said that several people were also at the townhall meetings and thank you for attending. This is also a busy time in education working towards annual goals.
- Update on the swing: There was an additional \$200 shipping and handling fee on the swing, but SSD ended up paying for the entire swing and the shipping. Mitch determined that we would not request those dollars back, but instead would look for other opportunities for equity on the playground or for campus beautification.
- Conference week teacher meals: Ms. Beecham said that the teachers like fuzzys, chic fil a, panda express, pasta house.
- A location is secured for Trivia Night – will be at the Shrewsbury Community Center. Mitch reminded that we need to make sure we have a projector.

President Updates: Working on conference lunches

Vice President Updates: Working on communicating room parents. Megan asked about gifts at the end of the year, and Ms. Beecham reminded that we steer more towards welcome back gifts.

Treasurer/Secretary/Equity Updates: None that were needed for the board exclusively.

11/6 – PTO General Meeting Notes:

- Guest: Sarah Aguilar and ten attendees
- Sarah Aguilar – Social Worker at Givens
- Principal Updates: Shared a thank you for participating in the building for Fall into Reading and at the classroom parties. She said that several people were also at the townhall meetings and thank you for attending. If you would like to hear some of the information that was shared during the Townhall meeting, you can come to room 101 during Parent Teacher conferences to hear more of that information. This is also a busy time in education working towards annual goals.
- Sarah Aguilar: Sarah works with student groups at Givens to increase the sense of belonging and community.
 - o One group that some of the students asked for was a group that is specifically for empowering girls of color. Sarah has been looking for a leader for the group that is also of color. She has identified a candidate and is offering an opportunity to support this candidate. They are envisioning that this will be an after-school club, for 4th and 5th grade girls of color. The goal is to start this group in January. There will not be a cap on the group and will have as many sessions as they see fit. Another idea was to collaborate with a renaissance group that is held at the high school level. The idea of this group is to celebrate racial and gender identities. These groups support our whole districts equity goals for that specific group. Everyone agreed that this sounds like a great idea, and

discussed the idea of reallocating the funds from the playground equipment towards this project. Sarah mentioned reviewing the “sense of belonging” data to identify other opportunities for this group.

- The question was asked if the group would only meet one time a month, and how many students would be participating in a program like this, and if it would be considered to open up this opportunity to students in the 3rd grade as well. Ms. Aguillar also supports Hudson and said that she would approach the Hudson principal as well. Ms. Aguillar was going to have a conversation with the Hudson Principal and get a sense of how many students would be interested in a program like this.
- Ms. Beecham asked if anyone was having trouble accessing SIS to see progress reports. Most attendees at the meeting said that they could, but Ms. Beecham was going to send a link to an electronic handout.
- Yorba moved to promote the minutes and Megan seconded – October meeting minutes were approved and will be shared on the PTO section of the Givens Elementary website.

President Update:

- Trivia Night Update: The Shrewsbury community center will be the venue for trivia night again this year. The tentative theme is “Saturday Night Live”. Save the date for 4/13/24!

No VP Update:

Secretary Update: Shared that PTO minutes are now linked to the Givens Elementary website in the PTO section.

Treasurer Website: In the last month we have funded buses for Kindergarten and Second Grade field trips, and accessible playground equipment. Income came in from Chess Club donations in addition to the fees for the actual chess club.

- Question was asked about the entire budget, which is 23k.

Equity Update: No updates from equity.

GAP & Chess Club Update: Laura Adamgbo logged into share updates from GAP. GAP is a group of parents that get together to discuss students with IEP, 504 plans, etc to help students care for their kids to have the same access as other students. GAP has hosted several events throughout the years. Last year GAP hosted chess club and it has been very successful. There has been a drop in enrollment and believe this is due to the cost this year vs last year. Chess club started a little later this year due to some changes in the district policies around safety. This week chess club will run for 8 weeks. Two more sessions are left this semester. Classes have been running really smoothly this year! If anyone has not paid their dues from this year’s session, GAP is asking that parents please pay those dues before Monday so the payment can be made to the STL chess club. Chess club is also looking for donations for club snacks or time to help support the club. GAP is working to coordinate efforts for chess club throughout the district to combine efforts with other elementary schools that also have a chess club. Registration for the spring semester should be coming in the early part of 2024. Next year payment for the club will be required at the same time as sign up.

- A question was raised about the number of participants – currently 27 students are enrolled in chess club. Max is 32. A couple people were turned down because we couldn't keep registration open any longer.
- A question was asked about adding registration deadlines for activities in the gazette.

Recent Events:

- VIP Day/Fall Into Reading: Well attended. A suggestion was made for future events to offer ideas for where to park.
- Townhall: Great information was shared – during conference week, there will be another opportunity to hear this information in room 101 during conferences on Tuesday and Thursday. Look for an overview in the gazette after conference nights.
- Trimester Parties: Possibly need more communication to room parents.

Upcoming Events:

- Wolf A Thon – Wolf A Thon is this week! All reading and activities at school and at home can be logged as a qualifying activity. Please submit donations for fundraising by Monday, November 13th. A couple volunteers are needed for hosting the events.
- Hacienda Dine Out – Wednesday, November 15th 11am – 8pm
- Parkmoor – Tuesday, December 5th – 20% 11am – 8pm

Audrey volunteered to be the new Co-Vice President – it was uncontested and approved by the PTO.

Considered mapping out the 2024/25 school year to offer more clarity around when we would want to encourage attendance at certain time periods.