

## Murray PTO Meeting

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2023

Time: 6:00-7:15 PM

Location: Murray Middle School Library / Online

**Attendees:** Ms. Dooley, Ethan E, Bryn Manion, Ms. Folkema, Mr. McKenzie, Kim Klinge, Emilio K, Nia Anderson. Andrea & Steven Bergman, Kristin Murch

### Principal update: (Principal McKenzie)

- Facilities update: Dropdown curtain installed in the gym over MEA. The gym can now be split into two spaces. Replaces inoperable doors, welcome improvement.
- Staffing update: Mr. Richard Terrell will be joining as the new vice principal on Oct. 30.
- Wednesday 10/18 dance was a success, had high attendance, llamas and a therapy dog.

### Treasurer update: (Nia)

- Balances
  - Plant sale was successful, we raised over \$600 for the general fund. We currently have \$2908.53 in our account at Sunrise Bank.

Opening Balance (08/31/2023)      \$ 1,823.82

#### Income

General Donation                      \$ 47.58

Plant Sale Revenue                      \$ 2,009.82

Spirit Wear Revenue                      \$ 28.83

Teacher Appreciation Donations      \$ 421.20

\$ 2,507.43

#### Expense

Plant Sale COGS                          \$(1,409.83)

Web Domain                                \$ (12.89)

\$(1,422.72)

Ending Balance (10/13/2023)        \$ 2,908.53

Roughly one third of that is restricted:

#### Restricted Funds

Adopt an Instrument                      \$ 40.00

Murray track and Field                      \$ 548.10

Teacher Appreciation                      \$ 421.20

\$ 1,009.30

- Fundraisers , etc.
  - (Give to the Max is Nov. 16) Newsletter, website, social media, local list-serve, maybe a flyer, Peach Jar (Canva will be used by Bryn). Give to the Max will stay a school drive, not PTO. School will have control over the funds. Remind donors about the Golden Ticket or company matches. Reminders through Facebook during the day and an early morning email.
  - Maggie is working on more dine out nights (Davanni's)
  - Book Fair with Barnes & Noble (Nia is working on this.) Band and orchestra has done this in the past. Is this in the works this year? Ms. Folkema is following up with teachers who have expressed some interest. First Wednesday in December is our target date (based on past). PTO will look into future ways to bring back the Adopt an Instrument campaign into the news.
  - Mini tulip bulb fundraiser is wrapping up.
  - Shoe fundraiser: First NJHS meeting is next Wednesday Shoes are recycled/refurbished (to avoid landfills). Shoe bag is filled, picked up, shipped to Florida. Could this be an Earth Day event? We could have a standing box? Decided against it.

**Spirit wear update:** 10 minutes

- How do we want to proceed? Student input needed/requested. Hoping to deliver my mid-December. Are there some seasonal items? (pjs, hats, drawstring pants)

**Discussion topic 1** (25 minutes for both topics)

- How can we increase student involvement in our group?
  - Affinity groups (boys group & girls group), Student Council (ask for ideas from them), Jamin will connect with Mr. Mansfield, Steph will reach out to Mr. Little
  - Do we have a list of those groups? -musical/flipside: costumes, help with cast, set, musical basically funds itself through fees and sales (concessions & tickets)
- Would we like to fund a student led initiative? What does that process look like? Could students have an opportunity to write a small grant or request funds? How could this become a learning experience? Jamin: How do we break the ice with this idea: Google Form? This could help get the idea on the minutes for the next meeting. Bryn will look at what she has seen before. Kim will look into the Chelsea Heights model. Goal: Draft of a form by the November meeting.

**Discussion topic 2 (closely connected with topic 1)**

- How do we build community? Group gatherings after fall sporting events, Flipside showcase, concerts, end of season reception, season kick off (meet with your coaches) Start with winter (boys & girls basketball and wrestling). Jamin will talk to Mr. Little. Winter concert December 19th. Could adults gather before the concert? Goodie bags for kids after? Steph will talk to Ms. Danae and ask about Barnes & Noble, Steph will talk to Ms. Abby and Jamin will talk to Mr. Little. Kristin has offered to help with a reception.
- Friday morning coffees? Or similar.
- Childcare and food for PTO meetings so more people can attend

**Questions:**

Are there PTO dues? No!

**Next meeting**

- November 21<sup>st</sup>

**7:15 Adjournment**