

Murray PTO Meeting

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023

Time: 6:00-7:15 PM

Location: Murray Middle School Library / Online

Attendees: Kim Klinge, Jamie Proulx, Clayton Howatt, Nia Anderson, Frannie H. (8th grader), Richard Turrell (staff), Erin Dooley (staff), Marshall Little (staff), Stefanie Folkema (staff), Grace Folkema, Bryn Manion

Principal update:

- Assistant Principal Turrell gave the update today. He's excited to be here and very thankful for the warm welcome.
- Interviewed a tech TOSA today - this person would be part time and help integrate technology into the classroom. He could possibly also support ELL work due to his background.
- Nov. 27-29 - Murray counselors will incorporate some new social emotional workshops for our 6th graders that focus on positive interactions, service and leadership.
- The next quarterly core values assembly is coming up as well. The next one is based on the value of **Perseverance**. Some fun activities are planned that incorporate teachers as well. They also focus on community and social building.
- Question from parents about pictures. We moved from Lifetouch to Jostens. The price point is much higher with Jostens. Murray will look into the best option for next year and possibly go back to Lifetouch.
- Budget information coming up on Dec. 4 from the district.

Student update: 10 minutes

- Frannie Howatt gave the student update. She talked about a new online curriculum for an accelerated math option. Unfortunately the accelerated option has held some students back, and they've lost time. They're learning the same things as last year. Additionally, she's asking for paper assignments because the online format isn't helping her learn.
- Students can ask to test into a higher, accelerated class. They should reach out to their teacher if they want to consider that.
 - Mr. Terrell said the district is aware of these issues and they are passing on all the negative feedback.
- Frannie expressed her concern that the classroom relies too much on technology.

Treasurer update: (Nia)

- We had a modest Give to the Max Day for the PTO, because the school drove the fundraising drive.
- Recently received another \$230 check for the bulb fundraiser.

- Total today: \$2,300 in the general fund. \$1,200 in the restricted fund (designated for instruments, track and field jerseys, teacher appreciation).
- Prepared to re-start spirit wear. Mr. Little talked with the current rep we're using. We could open it Nov. 22. She's planning for pajama bottoms among other things. Students/parents can order and pay online. They can also bring in the form and money to the front desk.
- Future orders to include signs and stickers.
- Note from Ms. Dooley - there's a shoe drive opportunity for NJHS. We are talking about promoting the opportunity to all our feeder elementary schools to get the amount of shoes we need. UPDATE: Determined it wasn't a good fit for either group to proceed.

By-Laws: (Clayton)

- Clayton will start working on something for review. More to come. Send samples if we have them.

Discussion 1 - Staff Needs

- Nia would like to send a staff survey to ask what they need from the PTO. What are things that you need? How can we help? Are there volunteer opportunities? We can offer things like time, talent and treasure.
- What information would we like to receive back?
- Can we create a process for fund requests. Send samples to Mr. McKenzie.

Discussion 2 - Community Engagement / More Parents and Students Involved

- Implementing childcare and food for our meetings. Goal to start this on January 16. Jamie will reach out to Mr. Altringer to confirm student volunteers. We'll budget \$100 for pizza and drinks.
- Murray treats potluck on Dec. 19 ahead of the winter concert. Possible idea. More to come.
- Topic for next time: consider how we could engage students and possibly have a grant opportunity posed to them - possibly up to \$250.

7:15 Adjournment

Next meeting:

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024