CORL STREET ELEMENTARY
PTO BOARD MEETING

September 3, 2019

In Attendance: **PTO Board Members:** Kelly Mark (Principal), Jennifer Pencek (President), Jackie O'Hara (Vice President), Emma Jane Rose (Treasurer), Peter Miraldi (Secretary) **Committee Members:** Phyllis Crandall (Box Tops), Pamela Trout (Directory), Veronica Iacobazzo (Book Swap), Michelle McMullen (Restaurant Rewards), Naomi Radio (Field Day). **Parents and Guests:** David Hutchinson (School Board), Michelle Shealer (2nd Grade Teacher), Cathy Miller (IST), Jill Ross (Kindergarten Teacher), Paije Davis (Librarian), James Crandall, Carmen Bilen, Elizabeth Yoder, Michael Lilly, Jen Roth, Samantha Banning, Mike Banning, Jennifer Mahte, Sam Seidel, Kimberly Lillie, Jie Peng, Stephanie Staniar, Sarah Krupp, David Miller, Cristin Long, Rebecca Thorsen, Charlotte Miller, Shamim Sinnar, K. Kimel, Barbara King-Wilson, Jen White.

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

I. Welcome/Introductions/Remarks: Jen Pencek welcomed everyone and we introduced ourselves.

II. Principal's Remarks: Dr. Mark reported:

A. We look forward to our open house in October.
B. Back to school night is Thursday, September 19th
C. Please keep traffic out of the alleyway to allow for construction and busses.
D. Our goal is to use the main entrance eventually.
E. Come back in October for update on the playground process.

III. School Board Report: David Hutchinson reported:

A. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the school board.

IV. Approval of Minutes: Postponed

V. Treasurer's Report: Emma Reported that:

A. The budget is the same as last year and we can vote to approve the budget which is based on the previous budget.
    a. Someone asked why we are hoarding money
        i. Emma said that we inherited $35,000
        ii. We usually raise more money than we budget for.
        iii. Sunshine fund is money for families who can't afford school supplies.
        iv. We talked about art projects for the new school and buying school supply.
    b. Attendee asked "Are there other opportunities to support children"

i. Emma said that we fund the field trips and teachers.

c. Someone asked about planting trees for the new school
    i. Emma said that we still have money in the garden fund to fund outdoor projects or indoor vertical gardens.
    ii. Jackie said that we need people to step up for projects that we want to fund.
    iii. Emma mentioned that we can incorporate the garden with curriculum
d. Someone asked to put out a formal grant process to the parents or teachers.
    i. Cathy Miller mentioned that the Title 1 teacher in this school provides assistant to small groups and asked if we could have a teacher allocation; The PTO was generous last year and allowed me to get books for kindergarteners.
    ii. Emma said that we approved funds for teachers and nurses.
e. Jen mentioned that the PTO backed off on the building equipment (trees, picnic tables, playground); We have the opportunity to contribute to the gardens, playground, mural (like park forest).
f. Someone said asked if we could have a punch list about things we needed. Can we ask teachers what they need and want?
    i. Jackie said we had a wishlist that didn't go anywhere.
    ii. Jackie said she will send out a GoogleDoc list to send to everyone.
g. Someone suggested the Corl street website for documents.
h. Someone asked "Instead of approving the budget now, can we add a line item for construction"
i. Emma said that we can add to the budget as we go.

MOTION: Sara Krupp motioned to approve budget as it was; David Miller seconded. Motion carries.

VI. Committee Reports:

A. Ice Cream Social: Jackie (speaking for Terril) reported:
    a. Next year, we would like to have compostable cups.
B. Book Fair: Jackie (speaking for Kristin Schwab) said:
    a. Kritine is concerned about raising money from the book fair.
    b. Book fair is October 16-18 (Donut day on the 16th)
    c. Paije said thank you for the sales for the library; Just the other day, I was able to order 30 more books thanks to the sales.
    d. Someone asked if we can add a line about the areas that will be funded. In the change drive slip that comes home.
        i. Jackie said that she would include the description.
        ii. Paije said if we raise $1000, the library gets matching funds.
C. Back to school luncheon: Jackie (speaking for Kristin Knowles):
    a. Kristin is asking for a $100 increase from $500 to $600.
    b. We will hold off on voting on this.
D. Boxtops: Phyllis reported:

a. Boxtops have gone digital.
b. You can download the app and take a picture of your receipt. We already made $1.
c. Phyllis will start promoting this on the facebook page.
d. You have 14 days to scan your receipt.
e. The old ways for the boxtops are still accepted for now.
f. We can double dip with the physical and app.
g. There has been a 50% drop in clips.
h. We need to reset our goal.
i. Last year, we received $350 on our goal of $1000.
    i. Jackie noted that the money raised by the boxtop fund supports families who need groceries, school supplies, lice kits.
    ii. Emma mentioned that we had a discussion about what we could cover with the sunshine fund.
    iii. Cathy Miller asked that we post The sunshine fund on our Facebook page.
    iv. Shamim asked how much of the sunshine fund was used last year. Emma said only a few hundred dollars was used out of $5000.
j. Phyllis noted that the collection box is not in front of the school.
    i. Dr. Mark said that they will find a prominent place for the box.

E. Newsletter: Carmen reported:
    a. The newsletter will be printed this week.
F. Cougar Cat Run: Beth Yoder reported:
    a. The cougar cat run is September 24th.
    b. The pep rally (Naomi) is next week on the 10th.
    c. Envelopes along with sponsor letter will be sent home.
    d. Save the date is coming home this week.
    e. The goal for the event is $20,000.
    f. We will have balloons, water, silly bands, prizes.

VII. Old Business

A. Discovery Space STEM Program for 5th Grade Girls: Beth Yoder reported:
    a. I became aware of a program sponsored by Discovery space for 5th grade girls.
    b. The program exposes students to women in a STEM field and includes a field trip to see a woman working in a STEM field.
    c. Each session is $1000 over three days.
    d. The sessions are held in our schools and then go on a field trip and day 3 is a reflection.
    e. Olivia recommended two sessions up to four sessions.
    f. I propose that we fund three, 3-day sessions for $3000 total. 95% of respondents said that they approve.
        i. Shamim asked how many students. Beth said that Discovery space could accommodate all of our 5th grade girls.

ii. Someone asked how long each session is and how do they get there.
    1. Beth said that each session is about 2 hours (until 5:30).
    2. For the field trip, they bring a certified school bus driver and bring them back to Corl Street.

iii. Emma said that she would be cautious because it is a lot of money for a small group of students and asked if there are other opportunities or initiatives that we can fund.

iv. Someone asked if we could do something in house.
    1. Dr. Mark said that we have had volunteers.

v. Someone asked how long the program has been in place.
    1. Beth said it has been at Bellefonte for a few years and has been funded by grant money.

vi. Someone suggested having a volunteer to help girls as they progress through their education.
    1. Beth responded, if we find someone, that would be great but who could follow up with girls as they continue their decision making.

vii. Someone said that Eberly has had the same conversation about women being underrepresented and noted that it is important for boys to see women in STEM fields.

viii. Someone asked if it would be possible to fund one session and see how it goes.
    1. Beth was going to propose three sessions for $3000 but we could do two (recommended by Olivia).

ix. Someone suggested women in science in engineering. STEM day for all of the kids.
    1. Beth said that Discovery Space follows up with girls in the middle school.

x. Someone suggested that we pilot a session similar to Cougar Cat Run and then take it over.
    1. Someone mentioned that it is difficult to have volunteers with clearances.

xi. Someone asked if the PTO can partially fund and then ask parents pay for the rest or use the sunshine fund if someone can't support the experience.

xii. Someone mentioned that a field trip requires a nurse which costs $450. This may not be an automatic cost.

MOTION: Beth Yoder motioned to allocate $2000 of this year's budget to pilot the Discovery Space program for 5th grade girls; Shamim Sinnar seconded. 20 voted for, 3 opposed; Motion passes.

VIII. New business

A. Fast Plant materials for first grade:

a. Michelle Shealer requested funds for the fast plants (seeds that go from seed to flower in 15 days) $117.89 with taxes.
b. Our units are changing so it may only be this year and next year.
c. This year, it may have gone up to about $125 for both classes.

MOTION: Naomi Radio motioned to add $125 line item on budget for the fast plant items. Shamim Sinnar seconded. Motion carries.

B. Fifth-grade allocation for third teacher.
    a. We had already passed $250 for each teacher.

C. School Supplies:
    a. Jen said that we could have a discussion about providing school supplies to children through PTO funds.
    b. At Park Forest, the PTO provides a stipend and the teacher buys what they need.
    c. Is this something that parents would be interested in?
        i. Emma said that Park forest buys everything.
        ii. Jackie said that Easterly buys everything.
        iii. Someone suggested that we use Amazon smile.
        iv. Jen said that she thinks it is $200-$300 per teacher for school supplies.
        v. Someone volunteered to compile lists for
        vi. Jen said that instead of Amazon we could buy in bulk to save money.
        vii. Emma said that the school supplies could tax our funds in the leaner years.
        viii. Jen said that we do not want to cut teacher allocations.
        ix. Someone said kids may want to personalize their own folder.
        x. Someone volunteered to gather information.
        xi. Teachers could provide their supply lists.
        xii. Jen said that there are similarities among lists but they are different.
        xiii. Someone asked if there is a rule to go through the SCASD store.
        xiv. The teachers could provide a list to the school assistant and we could allocate money for those purchases.
        xv. Someone said that there are a lot of leftovers in school supplies.
        xvi. Also, there is some sticker shock with the supply list.
        xvii. Emma said it would be great to take some standard items off of the parents' supply lists.
        xviii. Someone mentioned having a central supply from which teachers can take what they need and order what they need.
        xix. Jackie asked for volunteers.

1. Barbara King-Wilson and Kristen Long volunteered and will report back in October.

xx. Jen said that there is a signup genius that allowed parents to sign up to represent their class at the PTO meetings.

xxi. If you have a signup genius, please sign up and get others to represent as well.

D. PTO Video
   a. Phyllis Crandall needs 2-3 volunteers to create video to promote PTO.
      i. Stephanie Staniar and Barbara King-Wilson volunteered.

IX. Other business.

A. Storage Locker
   a. Emma said that we are still paying for a storage locker for 4th grade.
   b. We need to decide if we are going to keep funding the storage box.
   c. Paije said that it may be empty or it is her stuff.
   d. Emma said that there are two storage lockers.

B. Bus Seating Concern
   a. Someone said that we have gone from 4 busses to 2 busses and some students are standing on the bus.
   b. They are the last stop and there are 3 to a seat.
      i. Dr. Mark suggested e-mailing Vance Waters, director of transportation and to copy her on the e-mail.

C. Construction Dust
   a. Someone asked if construction dust will be cleaned so the kids don't inhale construction dust.
      i. Dr Mark said they are cleaning as they go.

D. Directory
   a. There will be some time before the directory comes out because the company that prints the directory has been bought out by another company.
   b. The paper directories may be out in October, but we have to wait and see.
   c. It was $300 for the directory and now it will be $450 with the new company so maybe we should look into a different option because we don't use all of the features on the current one much less the old one.

MOTION: David Miller motioned to adjourn. Jackie O'Hara seconded. Motion carries.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:24 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 1st; 7:00 PM
*Minutes prepared by Peter Miraldi on September 3rd, 2019