PTO Minutes
Thursday, May 2, 2019
6:30pm, ERS Library

Vice-President (for President): Meeting called to order at 6:31pm; introductions; April minutes approved
*Katie Rengel ran the meeting in Ashley's absence

Attendance: 9 parents, 2 teachers, 4 Board, Dr. Wuch (full list at the end of minutes)

Vice Presidents / Committee Reports:

- **Boxtops** – Last collection was sent in for the year; Mrs. Lawson's class won the prize
- **Scholastic Book Fair** (5/13-17) – Still recruiting volunteers and especially need help on 5/14; Suzy is looking for an assistant chairperson for next year, so contact her via FB if interested
- **Staff Appreciation** – Staff breakfast (for 60) is being planned, starts at 7:30; Jessica communicated with room parents about ideas for the week
- **Penny Drive** – $658 raised; Mrs. Cluckies class won
- **Enrichment** – Need a chairperson for next year
- **Grandparent VIP Day** (May 14) – Info sent out via Paw Print
- **Coffee Morning** – Scheduled for March; attendance was low in February, likely due to weather
- **WGSD Foundation** – Grants were awarded to Mrs. Kokous and Mrs. Lee; Mrs. Lee wrote a grant on behalf of all art teachers in the district

School Updates & Grade Highlights:

- **SSD teachers (Carrie Koehn, Sarah Lehrmann):** The teachers presented on some SSD events that were held this year. For the first time, a bowling event was held earlier this year (10 kids attended). Special Olympics for any child with IEP was held two weeks ago at the Moss Field track; pictures were shared. ERS sent 14 children to the event; all kids in the school cheered the athletes on as they walked out to the bus at the start of the day. It was suggested that the event be publicized ahead of time (e.g. via Paw Print) so that ERS parents could help support the ERS athletes. ERS is hoping to start a **Best Buddies** program next year. This is an international organization dedicated to creating opportunities to individuals with disabilities. Dr. Wuch has given administrative approval. Anyone interested in helping to bring the program to ERS should contact the office. The PTO will coordinate with Carrie and Sarah to learn more about how parents can help and will post info on the PTO FB page. ERS would be the first elementary school in Webster Groves to have this program. (Hixon is starting a chapter in the fall.)
- **Dr. Wuch:** A number of important dates were announced:
    - Fourth grade teacher was hired (Annie Bouvettte, ERS alumn). She is an ERS alumn and has 7 years teaching (4 years in Denver, the rest in St. Louis Public Schools).
    - May 16 – Volunteer breakfast, 7:30am; it is not too late to RSVP!
    - There is a service dog, Sadie, in school, and the kids are doing an amazing job respecting her role as a service dog.

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Treasurer:

- Cash on hand $45,921.28
- Upcoming expenses: PTO grants; possible payout to landscaping committee (if funds requested)
- Income expected: Book Fair, Night at the Ballpark
- The 2018-2019 audit will be complete by the end of next week.
- PTO awarded $8,501.68 in grants to teachers:
  - Kindergarten teachers (light tables) - $1,376.61
  - Susan Berger (multicultural books) - $434
  - Erin McClure (books) - $166.97
  - Brian Keller (podcast equipment) – $1,000
  - Mrs. Cocos (soft lighting, natural materials) - $361.84
  - Amanda Lawson (mentor texts) - $564.15
  - Sustainability committee (hand driers in bathrooms) - $3,200
  - Erica Ly & Michael Hunsinger (ELA) - $483.12
  - Betsy Moppert (mega chess/checkers; boards will be painted on playground) - $674.99
  - Jen Fossell (Splash math) - $240
- **2019-2020 Budget:** Floor was opened to discussion
  - Throughout the year there is a lot of variation for class parties and volunteers. A question was asked about using PTO funds for a classroom fund. Jessica said that this year, room parents were told to not send in money but instead to send in items for parties instead. Kathryn pointed out that the budget already includes a line item for "Staff Appreciation and Teacher Meals"; this is to be used for designated days (e.g. Admin Professionals Day) and meals during conferences/staff appreciation week. A line item would be created for classroom parties, and the Staff Appreciation line would need to be increased. There are 24 classrooms, each has 3 parties per year; at $30/party, which translates to $2,160. Several parents voiced the concern that having these funds would take some of the classroom community that is formed when parents come together to plan things. It was suggested that rather than designating funds for each class that there would be a fund that classrooms could request money from if the class is running short on dollars. It was recommended to let the new Board discuss the idea for a line item this summer and bring a suggestion forward in September. Jessica requested that any updates/changes be brought to her attention as she works on the Room Parent Handbook over the summer.

New Business:

- **Vote on 2019-2020 Budget:** Katherine made a motion to approve; Meghann seconded
  - **Votes:** 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain
  - **Result:** Budget approved
- **Vote on 2019-2020 Board Slate:** Voting done by ballot, moderated by Lauren Arnold
  - **Co-Presidents**– Ashley Cade, Katie Rengel
  - **Vice Presidents (2)** – Katy Proffer, Heather Goff
  - **Treasurer** – Kathrn Drennen
  - **Secretary** – Meghann Parson
  - **Result:** Slate is approved (8 yes; 1 abstain for all positions)

New Business:

- Discussion on using online payments whenever possible next year (via BidPal), although that comes with a fee (e.g. $25K raised by Trivia, with $2K in fees for BidPal, Amex, etc.). Venmo was suggested, with discussion about feasibility (e.g. whether or not it is allowed by the school/district, merchant fees, etc.). The Board will look in to options this summer and then report back in September.

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Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

Next PTO meeting: September 5, 6:30pm

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Members in Attendance:
Lauren Arnold (E-board)
Kathryn Drennen (E-board)
Katy Proffer (E-board)
Katie Rengel (E-board)
Julie Wuch (Principal)
Sarah Lehrmann (SSD, teacher)
Carrie Koehn (SSD SLP, teacher)

Mary Jo Condon
Jessica Griffin
Jennifer Johnson
Michael Lynch
Tracey Markuniak
Lucy Parker
Meghann Parson
Becky Piening
Amber Porter

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