

Fort Zeller Elementary PTO
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 @ 6:30PM

Meeting commenced at 6:34 p.m. by Kristen Martin.

Attendance: Kristen Martin, Allison Ebersole, Sara Derr, Jodi Horst, Erin Horning, Ashley Anspach, Steven Lin, Mrs. Stuart and Mrs. Yocum (teacher reps), Kelly Mohn, Scott Paradise and Danielle Gingrich.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Lin

- **Mobile Ag Lab:** Thank you to our amazing PTO for supporting the annual visit of the Mobile Ag Lab. This year, we were happy to be back in the trailer. No surprise, it was a hit with our students and staff! This coincided with visits from ELCO's FFA students the week before as they promoted Ag Literacy Week. Many students were able to make connections between their presentation and key elements in the Ag Lab lessons (e.g. soy bean). Special shout out to our parents who came out and volunteered as assistants in the trailer!
- **Successful Review of PBIS Tier 1 Fidelity:** This annual review, based on school safety surveys of staff and a walk-through, was conducted by representatives of PAPBS, which oversees the PBIS model in all schools in Pennsylvania. This review reaffirmed that we continue to maintain fidelity to the Tier 1 schoolwide model of positive behavioral supports as well as the structures in place to build a Tier 2 framework. As always, there were places for growth, which we plan to discuss and tackle, but overall, we continue to be pleased with the direction of our school culture in reference to positive supports.

TITLE 1 REPORT: Mr. Lin

- **Family Literacy Night:** Last Thursday, the elementary schools hosted the Family Literacy Night. Thank you to teachers and staff from Fort Zeller, Jackson, and the Intermediate School who came out and assisted in making the evening an enjoyable and meaningful celebration of reading at the middle school (thank you to Mr. Deane and Ms. Lutz for their willingness to host the event). We had about 219 people attend the event last week, but we were prepared to host up to 400. That meant that we needed A LOT of help setting up. Special shout out to Michelle Longenecker and Sara Faust, as well as the reading teams at Jackson and Intermediate school for spearheading this project. Also, I want to give a special recognition to Tyler Gruber from the Maintenance Department for really going above and beyond with his assistance with the set up, as well as Kim Wilson and Lucy Hollinger from the food services department for prepping all the food. ELCO softball players were also on hand to help out! We were also glad to have K-Pets, Myerstown and Richland Community

Library, the “Wild About Books” Mobile, and a slew of other activities for the children (including a bumper car activity, various make and takes, and three story walks). Finally our keynote guests were nationally acclaimed children’s book author Jonathan Stutzman and illustrator Heather Fox. Jonathan and Heather spoke about their journey towards becoming a children’s book duo, which included an animated read aloud by Mr. Stutzman of one of their books and a drawing demo by Ms. Fox. We had a great time! And based on feedback from families, it appears that they did as well!

- Summer reading program through the school and the local library. Encourage students to visit the Book Mobile throughout the summer at various locations and events. A flyer will be sent home with kids prior to summer break.

TEACHER’S REPORT:

- Thank you for the amazing delicious goodies from Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Celebrate the paras on paraprofessional day in the future. We would love to recognize them on their special day. We need to find the date for 2022-23 school year.
- Please remind the teachers to complete the survey for Teacher Appreciation Week feedback!

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Kelly Newswanger

- Motion for Adoption of the April Meeting Minutes: Ashley Anspach
- Second: Danielle Gingrich

TREASURER’S REPORT: Sara Derr

- Motion for adoption of the April Treasurer’s Report: Erin Horning
- Second: Allison Ebersole

COMMITTEE REPORTS: * *indicates those committee chairs interested in their position next year.*

Assemblies: Committee Chair, Jodi Horst*

- Ag Lab again next year? Mobile Ag Lab is scheduled in the Spring. 3 days before/3 days after Easter. \$1,650 cost, \$500 discount with the grant.
- Holly Serio Musical Program - Cost \$300 (Date still to be determined: Fall 2022?) Holly Serio Musical Program to schedule for the Fall. Mr. Lin will provide dates to Jodi on Fridays in September. Tentatively Friday, September 23rd @ 2:15 p.m. We would include a link for K-AM students to watch the program. K-AM students are also invited to come to school in order to enjoy the in-person program.
- Please send assembly ideas to Jodi whenever you have a great idea. She will look into the details!

Book Fair: Committee Chair,, Amora Cook*

- Alternate Location: We have to pick an alternate location in the school for the book fair and let Scholastic know ASAP. Stages are no longer allowed as locations for book fairs due to liability concerns about the book cases potentially falling over. We could have the Book Fair in the main lobby/hallway of the Fort. It would be a great way to entice the students and parents to purchase books, especially during Conferences in the Fall. We can check with the new principal at the start of the new year.

Rewards Programs: Committee Chair, *unfilled*

- Amazon Smile: \$
- Box Tops: \$93.30- The money we earn through this program has decreased since the company transitioned to solely the APP and relying on people to scan their receipts.
- Coca Cola Give: Jodi reviewed the process of creating an account and how to input the codes into the app. Parents are able to download the app and scan their bottle caps themselves or hand them in to the Fort Zeller office and one of our PTO members will enter them. Continue to collect over the summer and encourage family members and friends to collect!

Fundraising: Committee Chair, Kristen Martin*

- Review Reading Phillies Tickets- Reading Phillies Ticket fundraiser did not seem as successful as we were hoping, but Kristen will report the final numbers and profit once she hears back.
- Dutchway Punch Cards for soft pretzels and ice cream.
 - Order forms due: Thursday, May 12th
 - Send punch cards home with students: Monday, May 23
 - Many of the orders are already coming in prior to the due date. We make \$5 for each punch card sold, so a great return if we can sell them. Tickets are good through the summer months and include a punch card of 5 stubs for an ice cream or soft pretzel at either the Myerstown or Schaefferstown locations (which must be specified on the order form).

Race for Education: Co-Chairs, Amy Shade* & Kelly Newswanger*

- Teachers mentioned the shirts could possibly be a different color than Jackson for next year's shirt selection. Possibly changing Jackson to Blue shirts, while Fort Zeller has gold shirts. A suggestion of possibly creating a new logo for the next year to avoid students having the same design three years in a row. Maybe a student t-shirt contest like we did in the past. This would need to be sent out early in the school year.

Hospitality: Co-Chairs, Kara Shanaman & Danielle Gingrich*

- We had an outstanding parent response for the food donations for teacher appreciation week! We hope the staff felt appreciated, especially on Thursday when the teachers received the student responses to the Cinco things handout on cinco de Mayo.
- Going forward, we would like to budget more money for this week so we don't have to rely on the parents so heavily for three days of signups.
- Any teachers have an idea how we could surprise the teachers next time with the student response handout? The teachers mentioned that it didn't matter because it was still a surprise by what the students wrote. It was a sweet gesture.

Gingerbread Shop: Committee Chair, Allison Ebersole

- No updates

Memory Book: Committee Chair, Abby Entrekin

- We have extra yearbooks from this year (4-5 left) and if anyone is interested in purchasing them, they can contact the PTO to hold their copy. We are also attempting to sell the old yearbooks from the previous year on sale for \$10 to use them.
- Kelly Mohn will take over the Yearbook committee for next year. Kristen is thankful for Abby's amazing work to put together the yearbook so late into the school year. It was a fast turn-around in a few weeks after the early April due date.

FUN in the SUN: Co-Chairs, Erin Horning & Amora Cook

- Coming this Friday, we still need 2 volunteers! Bounce houses, inflatable obstacle course, yard games and shaved Ice from the Ice Shack.
- If the weather is bad, we will cancel it Thursday evening and give notice to parents ASAP either through an email or through social media.
- Mrs. Zurick will provide the speakers and music for the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Side-kicks for next year to learn the position? Next year, we would like to have assistants for each committee to make transitions a lot easier.
- 2nd grade send off/gift- 11 x 17 poster for the 2nd grade gift. Tasha Ness took the pictures last Friday, May 6th and brought crops for the students to include in their pictures. We will purchase a marker for the kids to sign.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fort Zeller Scholarship winners:
 - Madelynn Strickler - Female College
 - Cole Thomas - Male Trade School
 - Rheece Shuey - Male College
- Also, if we have any one from the PTO that could attend the awards ceremony on 5/25. Next year, possibly have only two winners that will be awarded \$1,000. We will ask the guidance counselor to present the award on their senior awards nights.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by Kristen Martin

*****NEXT MEETING: TENTATIVE DATE: Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 - 6:30PM**