

PTO Meeting 10/9/25

Attendees:

- Nana McKeone
- Brianne Yeagley
- Erika Luongo
- Erin Lohr
- Christine Maugle
- Maryann Pogue
- Lindsay Koch
- Valerie Pantanelli
- Molly Booker
- Kim Lyons
- Kelli Thompson
- Megan Bell
- Tracey Royo
- Jackie Lerch
- Peter Johnson
- Jill Goldman Botwin
- Caitlin Riela
- Fatima Elaska

Zoom:

- Archie Rice
- Ashley Shields
- Betsy Davidson
- Ellie Reynolds
- Erin Westfall
- Jessica Worley
- Kathryn McGillen
- Lauren Doliner
- Lori Ribbans
- Natalie Stoops
- Nicole Daboin
- Nicole Speacht
- Nidhi Shah
- Rachele Mitzi Lim
- Shailja Sharma

Approval of September meeting minutes from Zoom recording

- Motion supported: Kim Taylor
- 2nd: Christine Maugle

Principal Reports

- Dr Gowel: school is deep into learning – Band/Orchestra have started and both teachers and students are working hard – seeing phenomenal success!

Teacher Representative – Deborah Wood

- 4th graders are so excited to start with instrument lessons. Teachers are thrilled to see them grow.
- New science curriculum; very excited for some of the new modules to be added
- 2nd Grade science presentation: students have learned how to make white light and landforms in class! Learned the importance of sunlight for plant growth. Learned how water moves on different landforms: glaciers, waterfalls, lakes
- 4th graders have started geography; Mrs. Wenger set up a “café” for a “book tasting”

Officer Reports

- President: new counting system for money management and new forms are available and will be running for Book Fair procedures
- VP: no updates
- Secretary: no updates
- Distributing Treasurer: stepping down after this year; would love a shadow; tax-exempt status will be due this year
- Depositing Treasurer: no updates

Treasurer Report

- Will be visiting bank to discuss a high-yield account option
- Reviewed process for reimbursements
- Amazon Smiles and Box Tops are great ways to earn passive income – will send out info on Konstella and Facebook

Committee Reports

Communications

- Had a successful membership drive
- Signup for Book Fair was highly structured: SeeSaw, then Facebook & Konstella so there was the highest chance of full-school visibility at the same time
- Newsletter goal is to be able to provide the information that is missed if not able to attend PTO Meetings. Easy, streamlined, and professional
- Feedback from parents to members: notice the increased benefit of the communication structure; very beneficial to have Chairs start with a cohesive message before operating independently
- Raised \$2300 with the Membership Drive
- 154 parents responded to the Communication Survey at the end of last year with feedback to develop the committee; newsletter offers transparency in funding, email from committees have increased signup communication, and the system helps to keep a feeling of being disjoined low
- Will need a new Betsy to do Teacher Baskets next year – very low commit and can be done at home on own time
- Don't forget to have ID when checking in and turning in badge when leaving
- Dismissal plans cannot be submitted via SeeSaw; MUST go through the office as teachers cannot be expected to check constantly throughout the day and communicate to office during lesson hours; please park in middle school lot after 2:45pm!

Room Parents

- May be beneficial to notify parents who were not assigned that they weren't so there is clarity and not a feeling of being left in the dark
- There may be a discussion about what to use Konstella for moving forward as it is not being pushed as a mode of Directory of Communication
- Communications asked for the Google receipt to show the submission of the Google Form properly as a question was asked about missing volunteer information
- SeeSaw remains the most accessible way to reach the full school; Newsletter is the second best way to have scaled reach; both social media outlets (Facebook and Konstella) only hit an average of 50% of the school
- Now that classrooms are at the Directory point – if you have questions, you can reach out directly to Chairs. There is no required expectation for a Directory to be made by Room Parents. It could be made a requirement to create the directory or contact the classroom upon assignment – it is not now.
- The communication of who is the Class Liaison would fall to the teacher to share currently
- A Committee update will be sent to all Classroom Liaisons
- President will work with office to help with a plan for new students to include info in the New Student package
- Grandparents and guardians who want to be involved in the PTO can be added through the Membership Drive, but there needs to be a delicate balance between what information goes out to non-guardians. Per Dr. Gawel, we need to be careful about what opportunities are available to non-guardians in case guardians do not want certain familial interactions.
- All social media avenues have open capacity to join so we need to be mindful of what is shared
- Special Ed has no Classroom Liaison and often participating in gen-ed parties is overwhelming. Dr. Gawel notes that generating lists highlighting students receiving special services needs to be discussed carefully. Erin Lohr offered to help look into how to increase involvement this area

Hospitality

- Monthly meeting at 8pm October 16th for Committee via Zoom
- Basket supplies are being collected now for Fall and Winter baskets – just did a refresh of the coffee bars

Assemblies

- Make sure to sign up as we have amazing assemblies!

Snowball Express

- 8-12th with family night on the 9th. We can accept credit cards this year!
- Looking at trying to work with a company to get Hershey-related gifts that would still fall into the inexpensive budget
- Treasurer note: please use PTO credit card instead of personal cards!

Book Fair

- Help decorating would be beneficial
- Still have limited slots available for daytime volunteers and need help for family night