Givens PTO 2025-2026
Monday, November 3, 2025
6:00 pm / Givens Library

1. Dr. Parker and Dr. Wiley Presentation re: New Principal Search
2. Presidents (Betsy/Hannah)
    a. Read-A-Thon
        i. Messaging Support
        ii. Yard Signs/Progress Meter
        iii. Incentives
            1. Scholastic Gift Cards
            2. Wolf Stuffies
            3. DJ Lunch
            4. Ice Cream Recess
            5. Staff Pastries/Coffee
    b. Trunk or Treat
        i. Attendance:
            1. Cars: 28 cars (26 sign-ups, 1 drop out, 1 last minute addition, plus Mr. Kirksey's car)
            2. 104 families
            3. ~245 kids
            4. ~1lb 4oz candy / kid
        ii. Expenses
            1. Candy
            2. Prizes
        iii. Donations
            1. $250 anonymous donation for candy
            2. $150 general donation
        iv. Expense Summary
            1. $1747 raised, $668.01 spent - net: $1078.99
        v. Recap: what worked, what didn't
            1. Let's rethink asking trunks to pay (other schools don't seem to do this); ask for donations for candy.
            2. Some schools have line item in budget for TorT candy. That way, we don't need to ask for donated candy (we're asking for a lot this time of year)
            3. Movie: went well; signage for pizza and movie in gym?
            4. Maybe having some kind of structure would be good. Trunks, then movie, then leave.

5. Bring notebooks and pens next time.
6. Communication: do not BYO [alcoholic] B!!

c. Food Drive (being run by Ms. Aguilar and Ms. Perkins)
   i. Monetary donations
   ii. 85 families on free and reduced lunch; about half will reach out for food assistance
   iii. Betsy to check with Dwight about our giving Ms. Aguilar gift cards
   iv. Let's wait for gift card drive till after canned food drive is over.

d. Bylaws Update
   i. Brooke confirms draft of Equity role sounds good

e. Teacher Grants
   i. Granted Mrs. Stengel classroom supplies ($135.79)
   ii. Mrs. Go (dehumidifier) – her room was tested and they said it's fine
   iii. New request: Mrs. Stengel: writing center (~$175); Dwight approves; PTO approves
   iv. Natasha: We have ~$550 left (does not include the above ~$175)

f. Givens PR
   i. Car decals - we'll sell these on Spirit Store

g. Parent Resources
   i. Anxious Generation Book discussion workshop by Amy Maus
      1. Edgar: yes; Hudson: tentative; Clark: tentative
      2. Just under $500, if we split it between the schools do we have the money to host this in Jan/Feb? At most it would be $250. Mitch: yes, we have this money.
      3. First hour presentation; second hour small group discussion; Betsy envisions hosting this at Givens.
   ii. Wait Until 8th
      1. It's not a PTO initiative bc it's sticky. If someone who is not on PTO wants to run this, take it on.

h. Rumors
   i. Field Trips: Process and Funding
      1. Kirksey: teachers fill out a form proposing field trip, gets approved, then permission slip goes out, then bus gets reserved w/ Ms. Peeples. Teachers can use budget for a bus but this is typically covered, sometimes families are asked for money. PTO covers families who need assistance. Do teachers know they might be able to ask the school for this money.
   ii. Vice Principal: Numbers, referrals, environment

1. At title I meeting, it was said it comes down to total student population, student referrals have to be at a certain point

iii. Finger Printing

1. Betsy has heard you need finger printing to be in the school; she's looking into this.

3. VP Administration (Madeline)
    a. Staff meals
        i. November conferences 11/18, 3-6pm
    b. Staff birthdays / stock the lounge
        i. Cakes, cards, snacks
        ii. Help stock staff lounge (put in Gazette) - Excel sheet; first Monday of month, we need 3 people to help stock the lounge.
            1. We don't have to stock lounge based on teachers' favorite things.
            2. Stocking lounge in honor of [month] birthdays.
            3. Nicole/Madeline to get this message out for December. (November is done)
    c. Welcome Back Breakfast and Gifts
        i. Yes, this is a separate line item.
        ii. $25 gift cards per teacher and staff member (Madeline will get a list from Ms. Peeples)
4. VP Community (Erin)
    a. Room Parents
        i. Trimester Party Recap
        ii. For future parties, to avoid long lines in office, Dwight needs to send the rsvp Google form – this will get volunteer names printed. Erin to ask Dwight to send this
5. VP Fundraising (Audrey)
    a. Dine Outs
        i. Parkmoor October 21st recap
            1. Was busy. Great turnout. No numbers yet.
        ii. Sylvie Dees was $178 net
        iii. Chipotle Nov 5th 5-9pm – there is a drive-through
            1. We get 25% as long as we get $100 worth of sales
        iv. Idea: Vanilla Sugar Bake Shoppe in Webster?
            1. Clark does 20% give-back first Sunday of each month
        v. Idea: Dewey's?
    b. Progressive Dinner
        i. Tentative date of September 19, 2026

ii. Plan to announce ticket sales at trivia night

c. Wine Night
   i. Grapevine: February 12th from 6PM-8PM
   ii. Tickets will be $35 each; 50 tickets.
   iii. Need a photographer to donate a session so we can raffle.
   iv. When do we want to start communicating?
      1. Most after holidays. 90% of people who came last year signed up last minute. Do a Save the Date in December.

d. Fit Body and Givens Elementary Fundraiser
   i. In January: 28 Day Jumpstart to your staff, parents and community for $67 and donate 100% of the proceeds directly back to Givens PTO

6. Treasurers (Mitch/Natasha)
   a. 2025-26 budget
   b. Current Summary:
      i. Previous Month Closing Balance: $42,112.88
      ii. Current Balance: $42,418.53
      iii. Sept Expenses:
         1. Trunk or Treat ($1747 raised, $668.01 spent - net: $1078.99 (from raffle))
         2. 4th/5th Grade Field Trip Bus Cost ($253.48)
         3. Flowers for Ms. Peeples ($100.42)
         4. Support for Field Trip to Braeutigam Farms ($77.00)
      iv. Money Raised for 5th grade celebration + yearbooks - $191 (raises total budget to $1591); will be $291 after $100 in cash comes in.
      v. Waiting for dine-out amount from Parkmoor
      vi. We've raised "a little bit" of money this year.
   c. 501(c)(3)
      i. Working with Jacob Myer. Email out to contact, no reply yet. May need to contact other former Umbrella Org Members (we have a few names).
7. Communications (Alex/Nicole)
   a. Teacher Spotlight – Dwight is working with 5th grade teachers (Nicole to follow up in a few weeks)
   b. Peachjar for digital flyers – should we use this? Nicole will look into this (should backpack mail flyers go through peachjar, too)?
8. Equity (Brooke/Cloris)
   a. Is there a desire for a MLK Day celebration here? No. Let's not just have this be a one-day celebration; it should be talked about regularly.
9. Upcoming Dates & To Dos

a. 11/18: Teacher Conference Meal @ 3pm
b. 12/1: PTO Meeting – Frisco Bar Room
c. 1/2: Welcome Back Teacher Breakfast 8am (w/gift cards)
d. 2/12: Trimester Parties
e. 3/9: Teacher Conference Meal @ 3pm
f. 3/26: Art Festival
g. 4/11: Trivia Night (starting in December, let's put a blurb in Gazette once a week through end of Jan. – calling for volunteers to join Trivia committee)
h. 4/24: School Dance
i. 5/4 - 5/8: Teacher Appreciation Week
j. 5/15: Field Day
k. 5/18: Volunteer Appreciation and Harambee
l. 5/21: Trimester Parties
m. 5/21: 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

10. Committees
    a. Book Fair
        i. Will be held the week of conferences: w/o 11/17
        ii. All but 4 spots have volunteers. We're in good shape.
        iii. Nicole to make gift card coupons - get with Mitch on how much to donate for these.
    b. Large Initiatives
        i. With Current Money
            1. $5k on Staff line item: split $3k lounge, $2k staff grants
            2. $5k- $10K: Building Updates
                a. Courtyard
                    i. Rocks in garden beds
                    ii. Outdoor chalkboard
                    iii. Seating
                    iv. Umbrellas for tables
                    v. Storage shed (already have one, is it okay?)
                    vi. Mural on wall
                b. Cafeteria walkway: mural, paint columns
                c. Main Entrance: permanent benches outside, at playground
                d. Front Office Entry: mural, seating, artwork
        ii. Future initiatives (with $38k)
            1. Develop a plan for new principal to have at the end of this school year
    c. Cardinals Game

i. 9/20/26 vs. Nationals; Take me out to the ballgame (grades 2-5)
ii. Ticket Sales Process
    1. Early bird ticket sale (get vouchers to use in spring)
    2. Don't start pushing ticket sales till school starts
    3. Put flyer in kindergarten bags
    4. Planning to request fewer tickets this year
iii. Ticket Price
    1. Gone up to $25 per person; let's not have this be a fundraiser (i.e., do not raise ticket prices)
iv. Transportation to the game
    1. carpool
v. Shirts

11. Opens
    a. Social Worker/Nurse Supply Needs
    b. Chess Club
    c. Music Concerts: Seats and flowers (Audrey and Alex to get 12-pack of Pepsi for Ms. Cook and flowers for Ms. Brinker)
        i. 5th and 4th Grade Art & Music Showcase is Thursday December 4, 2025
        ii. 3rd and 2nd Grade Art & Music Showcase is Thursday March 5, 2026
        iii. Givens Gray Wolf Choir Concert is Wednesday April 22, 2026
        iv. 1st and Kindergarten Art & Music Showcase is Thursday April 30, 2026
    d. Birthday Lunches with Students - Betsy to ask Dwight about this