



PTO Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2022

Virtual/Webex

Attendance:

PTO BOARD IN ATTENDANCE:

- Debbie McGee – Treasurer
- Christina Coppola-Hanna – Secretary

MEMBERS: Rikki Mutter; Cathy Cushard; Jolynn Stucky; Jennie Phipps; Jacklyn Mayer; Lisa Hendrick; Stephanie Williams; Jill Baker

Call to Order: 7:33pm by Christina Coppola-Hanna

Discussion:

Discount Card Fundraiser Wrap up: D. McGee

- Had roughly 40 students sell at least 1 bundle of 5 cards
- Pizza party/prizes assembly scheduled for April 14th

Current Fundraisers: D. McGee

- Bagel Sales – Sold 500 bagels first round, 400 bagels second round
- Popcorn Sales – every other Friday alternating with bagel sales; averaging sales of 150 – 220 boxes

Budget: D. McGee

- Received \$1,200 check from the D.A.V. (Disabled American Veterans) drop box in our parking lot. This covers the last 2 years that they haven't been sending in monthly checks. Thanks to Mrs. Lumpkins who called on our behalf to check the status. Donations are weighed and we receive a percentage per pound.
- Received \$80 check from Kroger for the quarter
- With the popcorn sales, bagels sales and coupon card fundraiser, budget sits currently at \$6,500. This does include the mandatory \$3,000 yearly start-up funds, so technically only \$3,500 is currently available.

Easter/Plastic Egg Draw: C. Coppola-Hanna

- April 11, 12, 13 – call classrooms down in the morning
- \$1 per egg pre-filled with stickers, erasers, bouncy balls, small toys, squishes or money (Limit of 5 per day)

World's Finest Chocolate Sales Kickoff: D. McGee

- Assembly kickoff is scheduled for April 20th
- Currently working with vendor to determine prizes and levels
- Fundraiser will run 2-3 week
- Box holds 60 bars at \$1 each – we get a profit of \$27 per box due to price increases over the past two years (used to split the sales and get \$30/box)
- This usually turns out as a big fundraiser for the PTO – years past we've made a profit of approximately \$8,000

Lunchroom Supervisor Appreciation: C. Coppola-Hanna

- During the Fall Book Fair, we sold stickers to use the money towards paying taxes for students at the fair. We have funds left over. Crystal Standerwick suggested prior to this meeting, that we use the money to buy lunch for our Lunchroom Supervisors since they work hard every day with our students during three lunches.
- All agreed money should be used for lunch appreciation
- We will work out a good day and time in the next few weeks for the lunch

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: C. Coppola-Hanna

- Week of May 2 – May 6
- Looking for unique ideas, maybe survey teachers to get their wish lists
- PTO looking into giving teachers the gift of time by covering classes for them to have an extended lunch hour, extra prep time, leave early, etc. Both Mrs. Mutter and Mrs. Cushard loved the idea and stated even a half-hour of us covering their class outside at recess will allow them to finish making copies or even sitting down to drink a hot cup of coffee. We will work with Mrs. Babbish for authorization to do this, if possible.
- Mrs. Baker stated that the salad bar lunch was also a hit with teachers so they don't have to worry about packing a lunch for the day

PTO Board Nominations/Membership Drive: C. Coppola-Hanna

- April nominations are due; May voting for PTO Board members
- Looking for ideas on how to increase membership since a few of us have only 1 or 2 years left at Susick. Want to keep the PTO thriving for several years to come.
 - Suggestions:
 - Have a recruitment table at our events with flyers about the PTO, maybe have posters or video showing our events. - D. McGee
 - Hang out at the Kindergarten doors after school to answer questions apprehensive families may have about what the PTO is all about. "Put a face" to the organization!

Spring Carnival

- Tentatively looking at Friday June 10
- Looking into having Food Trucks. J. Stucky and D. McGee will research availability of local trucks

- Kona Ice – J. Phipps had success with a small cart recently at a Troy Cheer Competition. Will look into that.
- J. Phipps will also contact the Little Donut Factory truck
- Definitely want bounce houses again and look into other types of entertainment as well: DJ/MC who gets the crowd doing different things; face painters; concession-type games; magician, balloon artist
- Kayla's Cookies – get her as a vendor again
- S. Williams asked about plans if it rains; we will look into renting big tents and having the option to use the café and gym if needed
- Not a huge interest in having petting zoo back
- Have a sign-up for parents to volunteer in ½ hour or hour increments

5th Grade activities/graduation gifts

- Past few years have given 5th grade students nylon backpacks packed with locks, pencil cases, cookies, coupons, etc
- Looking for any other ideas

Principal's Report

- S. Williams stood in for Mrs. Babbish
- Wanted to get the word out about the importance of the May 3rd Bond Proposal passing.
 - It's a zero tax increase bond that provides additional funds for improvements in school infrastructure, safety & security, technology & equipment and fine arts, athletics, site & playground improvements.

Teachers' Report

- Ms. Baker reported that with the funds from the Fall book fair, she has been able to purchase various books that the students are excited about
- Next goal for the library is to raise funds to replace/repurpose the furniture in the media center to make it more student friendly. It will be expensive to do so.

Open Floor

- **Communication of School/Teacher Needs:**
 - Mrs. J. Mayer asked if there was a means of more communication outside of the PTO meetings where parents are informed of happenings inside the school buildings parents may need to know or have an opportunity to help out
 - Gave the example of the improvements in HVAC system. She was unaware that our building has had several issues of rooms being too hot or too cold. Information like this could be shared with other parents waiting outside during pickup. This would improve the percentage of parents voting for bond proposals that address this need like the one on May 3.
 - More direct communication from "inside" the school will also help with the new families (Kindergarten) that really don't know a great deal about what

happens in the classroom and during the specials. They hear a lot from their children about what they do, but putting a "face to the action" so to speak would be very beneficial. Asked for more pictures to be posted of art, stem, gym, media, music just so parents get a better feel for what their child does during the day.

- C. Coppola-Hanna suggested a Communication Newsletter with each grade level contributing what's going on in their rooms for the week/month. Also suggested the leadership students doing the Susick Scoop, interview staff and give a sneak peak of what's happening behind closed doors.
- J. Mayer also asked for communication from teachers as to what supplies need to be restocked during the year, other than just a wish list during Teacher Appreciation Week. A generic list can even be posted to Bloomz for parents to sign up and donate supplies for teachers reluctant to ask parents. They can remain anonymous. She also asked for a wish list of not only supplies but any personal items they may like as gifts throughout the year to be distributed to teachers. Word on the playground is that parents really want to thank teachers in more ways than just supplies
- C. Coppola to work on this idea more with utilizing Bloomz sign up and sending out surveys to teachers.

- J. Stucky asked about having Room Mom/Dad designated for each classroom. These people could also be advocates of making sure teachers have what they need.
- J. Stucky also suggested soliciting more volunteers to help out with various activities so more people are involved with PTO and help it continue on strong throughout the years.
- J. Mayer suggested we give out more information of what is expected when volunteers are needed. Many of the parents want to help but are apprehensive because they don't know what is expected of them.
- C. Cushard – "My son is in kindergarten this year too, so I'm kind of living it from both sides right now, but my nephew's school, because he's also kindergartener, they had organized a bunch of meetups over the summer just at the school playground, and I thought what a fantastic way to get the families to get together and to meet one another, and kind of ease some of the beginning of school year jitters and things. But that's a great recruiting opportunity as well. And it doesn't cost anything at all. So, they just sent out an email blast to all the kindergarten families, but you could do this as a school wide thing as well."

- L. Hendrick asked if there will be "Muffins with Moms, Donuts with Dads" events like in years past. She stated it was a very positive outcome for both parents and students, and Mrs. Babbish mentioned it at her Coffee and Conversations event held a few weeks ago. We will follow up with Mrs. Babbish for more direction on this.

- J. Mayer asked about potential for Little Caesar's Pizza Kits sales as a possible fundraiser. We did let her know it is on our radar and how it worked out last time. Will put it on the tentative agenda to be discussed for Fall since Spring currently has the chocolate sales.
- S. Williams asked about getting Susick Shirt/ Spirit Wear.
 - C. Coppola-Hanna still is working on options including the possibility of PTO investing in their own heat press.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:38pm

Next Meeting: Thursday April 21, 2022