

PTO Minutes
Thursday, May 5, 2016
6:30pm, ERS Library

President: Meeting brought to order at 6:32pm; April minutes approved

Guest: Dr. John Simpson, incoming Superintendent

- Dr. Simpson gave a brief overview of his background, including how he got into education, previous teaching and administrative experience. He then answered questions from attendees. As part of the Q&A, he shared his focus areas – communication, transparency, and district finances. Results from a more in-depth enrollment study are forthcoming and will guide many future decisions.

Vice Presidents:

- Boxtops are done for the year; \$1,150 has been collected this year. Winning classrooms have been announced, and ice cream parties will be coordinated with the Office.
- Auction is complete, and Sara King is working on a checklist for next year's committee.
- Teacher tribute letters were sent out from the office.
- Teacher appreciation events were coordinated and are ongoing.
- Playgroup cleanup is postponed until the fall.
- Boy Scouts are having a call for Boy Scouts on May 12 in the HS cafeteria.
- End-of-the-year carnival (May 14, 9am-12pm) – Games, prizes, tables, and chairs will be delivered the day before the event. Volunteers are needed to set up and help run the games; 5th graders, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts are all helping run booths.
- Chris' Cakes (May 14, 9-11am) – Event will follow the Jaguar Cross Country Classic.
- Penny Drive was cancelled. Lisa Long and Ashley Cade will coordinate with Team 5 (5th grade safety patrol) to have buckets to collect spare change during drop-off the last week of school.

Treasurer:

- No updates to report at this time.
- Money earned from baseball tickets will go to Mr. Hansen; 500 tickets sold, up from 250 last year.

Principal & Faculty Report:

- Discussed moving away from food rewards and towards a menu of options for classes to vote on when rewards are earned (e.g. Boxtop winners).
- Betsy Moppert noted that the pond is 12 years old and needs a make-over. She anticipates needing the \$350 budgeted annually next year but will look at needs and present a budget request to PTO.
- Two new 4th grade teachers have been hired – Brian Keller and Samantha Gegg. Both current teach at Mallinckrodt Academy of Gifted Instruction (St. Louis City). They are buddy-classroom teachers in their current schools, collaborating with each other and with first grade classrooms. Brian currently runs the robotics team. Both teachers live in Webster.
- Susan Berger, the ERS permanent substitute, will be the new 2nd grade teacher.
- A kindergarten teacher has been hired and will be announced after Board approval.
- Carol Zimmer, the reading specialist, is retiring. Mrs. Deniszczuk will be moving to her position.
- 2016-2017 teacher assignments will be sent home on May 19. A "move up day" for students to meet new teachers will be held on May 25; all new staff will be here that day.
- Big thanks to all who wrote letters to teachers; all letters were delivered on Monday morning.
- ERS year in review (challenges and successes) will be presented by Dr. Wuch to the Board on May 9; the presentation was shared with attendees.
- The library will get new carpet; color blocks will scatter throughout the room.

New Business:

- 2016-2017 suggested fundraisers:
 - Trivia & Auction Night
 - Fun Pasta – 40-50% profit for promoting links and submitting online orders; already have a chair
 - Night Outs – serves as both a fundraiser and a community building event
 - Schoola Stitch – a charitable fundraiser to drop off gently used women’s and children’s clothing; the organization sells the clothing items and a portion of sales goes back to the school
 - Donation drive (“write a check”) at the beginning of the year
 - Jamba Juice cards – buy for \$5, sell for \$10; anything not sold can be returned. Ashley suggested piloting the program at the 5K and again at Septemberfest.
 - Vendor fair was suggested where businesses pay \$40-50 for a table and then sell items. It was asked if special permits are needed, and Dr. Wuch will check on it. It was also suggested to also check with Webster University about logistics for their Green with India vendor fair.
- Fundraisers voted are:
 - Trivia and Auction
 - Fun Pasta
 - Nights Out
 - Schoola Stitch
 - Write-a-check donation
- Vendor Fair will be put up as a committee to see if anyone will chair
- It was suggested that next year each classroom have a parent attendee at the PTO meetings; this could be a room parent or a revolving pool of parents. A “PTO signup” can be in each classroom at the Open House, with 8 slots to sign up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm