

PTO Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2012

Attendees: Erica Marson, Steve Bonds, Rachael Wilde, Carrie Monnie, David Massingill, Maureen Jaimes, Indi Petranek-McHugh, Rhonda McCall, Lisa Taylor, Sandi Bone, Beth Wolfson, Nicole Burnham, Gretchen Wright, Marne Oyen.

After introductions were made, the minutes from the November 6, 2012 PTO meeting were reviewed and approved with 4 spelling changes.

Mrs. Marson, our principal, gave her update. She started with a huge thank you to the PTO for their support of the teachers and she expressed how the teachers have felt appreciated. Mrs. Marson also mentioned showing the fun run video to some colleagues and they loved it. Her colleagues requested copies to show off to their respective PTO groups to help inspire them.

Community Conversations with the Superintendent was the next point Mrs. Marson addressed. These community conversations would include getting people from the community to discuss changes in education, where it is, where it is going. These meetings will include employees from Nike, Intel and 2 teachers from each building along with three administrators. The Superintendent would also like to include a couple of parents from each school. There will be 3 meetings in between January and June which will last about 2 hours. If you are interested in participating please let Mrs. Marson know by December 17th.

Mrs. Marson spoke about a special project after winter break to help give teachers a boost. She will need a parent from each teacher's class to give her a hand with this. She needs the project completed before winter break so it is a very quick turnaround time. (More info available on request but this was a secret project)

She also shared with us that there will not be Spring conferences this school year. This is due mainly to the cost of interpreters, which is very high. It was noted however you can contact your teacher for a meeting at any time to check in on your child's progress.

Next up was the Budget Update given by Treasurer, Indi Petranek-McHugh. The budget sheet numbers given were as of the end of November. The PTO is starting to cover the cost of field trips however the transportation bills have not yet showed up. It was noted the transportation bill usually comes in one big invoice. Indi also noted there was an invoice for the 5th graders Children's Theater trip and one in her in-box for the 4th graders but she had not heard the status of the other grades field trips.

Rhonda McCall gave the volunteer update next. Fir Grove volunteers have currently logged over 4,100 hours!! A huge thank you for all that you do. She also expressed that parents should feel free to contact her or Tera Lynn Shimel with any questions and/or desire to volunteer. If you know of a family member, neighbor, teacher...etc. that would like to volunteer please send them their way. They'll take them!

She also noted it is never to late to enter volunteer hours. Just let her know how many hours and for what. For example: I spent two hours working on games for Harvest Party at home. Contact Rhonda McCall with those volunteer hours at volunteers@firgrovepto.com

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Events

Doughnuts for Divas @ 7:15am December 7th

Current Ongoing Volunteer Needs

Full day Kindergarten Class Help: Our full day Kindergarten classroom needs a volunteer from 9:00-10:00 on Thursday mornings. Contact Gina Smith at gina_smith@beaverton.k12.or.us

Garden Help: We are looking for some brave gardeners to help the next two weekends in our courtyard. Contact Rhonda McCall at volunteers@firgrovepto.com

Library: It is okay to poke your head in to see if they need help. It tends to go in waves. LisaKaren Donnelly is the Library Media Assistant, she'll let you know what the current tasks are. Also if you have any fun funky paper that we can cut up for bookmarks please bring it in to Rhonda McCall. The children love getting bookmarks when they check out books.

Also a special thank you to the Boy Scouts from Pack 685 for working hard on the garden. They were a huge help! Also parents who are bringing in treats for the teachers, thank you very much. This is helping the teachers feel appreciated and they are sure enjoying the treats.

If you want to get your teacher a treat for the holiday check out their classroom wish list online. If your teacher's wish list hasn't been updated you can gently prod them to update it to see what they need.

Maureen Jaimes was next up with the fundraising update. Payments for the Fun Run were a bit late coming in the year but we hit \$25,500!! The expenses for the Fun Run were \$1,500. Tom's Pancakes gave us \$40 for breakfast. 60 children got pizza for the Fun Run which was provided by Garlic Jim's and Hart Road Pizza. The 4th grade was the top money earner. Also, over 200 students earned tshirts this year. We are going to do a sponsor page on our PTO website to give shout outs to the business who donated for the Fun Run. It would be nice to shop/eat/do business with the folks who donate to Fir Grove; we sure appreciate them! Finally a video of the prize assembly and actual documentation that Mrs. Marson can indeed dance will be put on the website for viewing. This will wrap up fundraising until the Penny Drive! One final point mentioned was that the Intel check for matching funds will still be coming in so the Fun Run total will be going up a bit more!

The Presidential update was next on the agenda. It was decided that future PTO meeting minutes will be sent out as "unapproved" in order to get the information out in a timely manner to parents who were not able to attend a meeting.

Battle of the Books teams have been determined. There will be 10-4th grade teams and 9-5th grade teams; 50 out of 75 4th and 5th graders signed up. Enrollment was up this year which may have been boosted by allowing the lower grades to come and watch the final battles to get them excited for the next year's event. The groups will be meeting in January and the battles will begin! Battles take place over the children's lunch recess and battle schedules will be posted on the Battle of the Books bulletin board by the library entrance. This program is a nationwide event. In fact the winning Fir Grove team will go on to regionals. If they advance, next up would be state finals in Salem. The PTO spent \$267 on books for this event. We were able to ensure the school has at least four copies of every book that the children have to read for the battles. Powell's books also have a list of the books being used in the battle. When the event concludes there will be a celebration and apparently a dodge ball challenge!

The PTO bought the teachers a coffee maker and they are enjoying it. The coffee maker is a Keurig and it uses a K-cup; which can be picked up just about anywhere. Feel free to drop off a few K-cups for the teachers if you like.

Lisa next spoke about a program called the Beaverton Eco-School Network. They would like to get 2 parents to represent Fir Grove at their meeting. The program's main focus will be learning ways to be green at your school. Interested parents can contact Emily Klavins at Emily@earthleaders.org.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was voted and approved to table the discussion on the Discovery Education website. The PTO is hesitant to put another annual expense in the budget when they are currently running at about \$4,750 in annual expenses over what we spent last year. The PTO is going to look at this program again in the future or possibly look for an outside sponsor. We may try and contact BCC or look to others in the community. Steve Bonds questioned if direct donations for the program were a possibility and it was confirmed they in fact were.

It was also mentioned during the Discovery Education program discussion that the PTO purchased the 4th-5th grade planners this year and they have had a high value. This was an expense previously paid for by the school district. Battle of the Books is also a new expense to the PTO that was covered last year by the school district. Currently the PTO has a balanced budget and has taken on many of the expenses previously paid for by the school district but for us to add another \$1,000 ongoing expense would/could be a bit risky. The PTO will continue to gather information in the possibility on implementing this program at a later date. We'll get more information from teachers on the value of this program to them and discuss with the teachers the possibility of giving up \$1000 of the \$2000 the PTO gives them to spend on classroom supplies to funding the Discovery Program. Again it was voted and approved that moving forward with funding this program has been tabled for now.

Annual Expenses	
4-5 grade planners	\$450
3 Assemblies	\$1,400
Book room books	\$500
Battle of the Books	\$500
Raz Kids	\$1,000
Teacher supplies	\$1,000
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	\$4,750
One Time Payout	
Smartboards	\$5,000
Total	<hr/>
	\$9,750

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion occurred on how to direct more parents to the PTO Facebook page. There was discussion about doing a prize drawing out of the parents who "liked" the page if we hit 150 followers.

Next PTO meeting will be January 8th at 8:10am in the portable. Hope to see more parents there.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30

Happy Holidays!