

PTO General Meeting notes, September 12, 2019

Tami Zevenbergen – President

Katie Seward – Vice President

Jeff Parnel – Outgoing treasurer

Abbie Long – Incoming treasurer

Brooke Freestone – Secretary

Karen Troughton – PLUSS Liasion

Hawk Cramer - Principal

President Discussion

- No plan for auction
- Concentrate on things we have been historically doing and do them well
- Spent summer purging PTO Supplies and planning for storage container
- Working on updating the website – new comprehensive strategic plan
- Focusing on in-school enrichment – art docent, technology, working with teachers, special assemblies
- Environmental enrichment – Beautification day for October 5
- Strengthen relationships with staff

Principal Discussion

- What does the PTO mean to you? (Question posed by Tami)
- We had a portable removed from our campus; Chartwells/ PTO
- Tami spent hours sorting and clearing portable
- Really excited about the school year starting
- Kindergarteners coming in lined up against the wall and nervous – hope to come up with a new system; but no kid had to be peeled off their parent
- Teacher training – trauma informed practices – cortisol (fight or flight) , dopamine (Warm fuzzy)
 - o Kids start the day with cortisol; too much cortisol keeps kids from being able to learn, inhibits cognitive function
 - o Simple high five can give a shot of dopamine
 - o Most kids come with adverse childhood experiences – loss, etc
 - o Trauma informed practices helps teachers recognize ACEs and cortisol levels
 - o Have calm down corners in the classroom, Lana Duncan is available
 - o It's important for the kids environment to be scanning for what is good and positive in this world, not inundated with bad things in media
- Ted Talk with Shawn Achor

- The Happiness Advantage: Research Linking Happiness and Success
- Positive Psychology – if we study what is average, we remain average; why are some many people above – what does it take to move the average up?
- Majority of news is negative
- Need to reverse formula for success – “if I work harder then I will be successful” – broken and backwards; happiness is on the other side of success
- IF you can rewire people to be positive in the present; you are rewired for success
- Dopamine turns on the learning centers in your brain
- In just a two minute session a day, write down 3 things you are grateful for for a month and you will rewire your brain to see the positive; journaling about one positive experience you have had in past 24 hours allows you to relived it; meditation gets you away from cultural ADHD; random acts of kindness – email something nice
- Staff is meeting for five minutes at the start of the day in the library and standing in a circle – they share one thing that had a positive impact on them in the past 24 hours; start the day on positive note and then go out to see their teacher

Treasurer report (see attached report)

- Fiscal year starts July 1, 2019 at \$98,243.84
- Money already spent on playground \$43,500
- Increasing PTO Administrative Supplies for the storage unit (coming in under budget with district contribution)
- New Art Docent program – headed up by Dzana Kovar
- Assemblies – Scholastic ambassador, ?
- Grant forms – will be updated and presented at staff meeting
- Walkathon is main scheduled fundraiser
- Why aren't we doing the auction? No volunteer. Also no target for spending funds.
- Spend this year talking to teachers, find out how to support them
- Extracurricular activities to enrich school environment not student performance
- PTO is responsible for the community piece
- These programs boost morale and makes kids better learners
- Is there more money for assemblies? Make character trait assemblies bigger? Possibly anti-bullying;
- Author visit was wonderful
- Board can add \$500 without general approval
- Possibility of doing surveys? How to increase participation?
- Communication needs to improve
- Facebook group has bigger outreach
- Brooke Freestone moves to approve the budget; Tami Zevenberger second

Dzana Kovar – Updating the art docent program

- Same program since 1991; onetime updated to be on CDs

- Moving to something totally new that will be easier
- Deep Space Sparkle – robust art curriculum
- Epic curriculum - Line, shape, contrast, form
- Can do new things each year – like artists
- Streamlining the projects
- In previous years, teachers were frustrated because there were quality and communication issues; parents were frustrated because they felt on their own
- One project K-2; one project 3-4; one project 5-6
- Allow teachers to anticipate what is coming in the classroom
- Art docents will have a monthly tutorial; tab on PTO website
- Ready to roll; just waiting for curriculum night to get art docent volunteers
- Will start in October

Beautification Day (see attached flyer)

- Can't paint because kids will be there
- Going to be a great day
- Bring wheelbarrows

Call for Volunteers

- Fill out the blue forms!!!