

Meramec PTO Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 11, 2014
8:45 – 10: AM

Attendees

Dana Emmenegger, Jodi Ladner, Allison Thomason, Glenn Taylor, Stephanie Gross, Tanya Vedantham, Cordell Whitlock, Shellie Hill, Susan Yang, Carol Blinder, Elyse Feinstein, Danijela Boric, Tammy Feltner, Jeff Orgel, Arethea Whittaker, Elizabeth Thompson, Lisa Holtzan, Angela Pompian, Fred Davis, Dan Fazio, Rosemary Bubnis, Jenny Abeles, Cari Lowry, Lisa Jackson Terry, Scott Osborn and Tarita Rhimes

Call To Order

Stephanie Gross

8:45AM – Meeting begins

Introductions

Completed PTO Events

Stephanie Gross

Review of what happened this summer:

- ✓ Donated \$365 to Summer Academy to purchase new books for students to keep.
- ✓ Acquired a new piece of play ground equipment.
- ✓ Playground shelter under construction.
- ✓ Back To School Coffee - it was a nice chance to catch up and meet new people. Thank you to Kelli Farmer, Stacey Winfield & Andrea Rosenbloom for coordinating.
- ✓ Open House - PTO provides dinner for the staff so they don't have to worry about food for the evening. Received a few thank you notes from staff
- ✓ Snow Cone Day - Great day, kids were very excited, and had a blast. Pictures will be posted.

Committee Reports

Movie Night

Danijela Boric

- ✓ Will be held on Friday, September 26th 6:30 PM on the blacktop. This year's movie will be Rio2. Concessions will be available for purchase (please make sure to bring cash). We will have nachos, pizza (cheese), popcorn machine (we have one, yay)!
- ✓ Please keep an eye on your children.
- ✓ Signupgenius will be coming out to recruit volunteers for the evening.
- ✓ Bring Blankets, flashlights, low seats, etc to make it more comfortable.

Funds For Excellence (FFE)

Dana Emmenegger, Jodi Ladner

- ✓ Over 100 forms turned in as of now... this is great! We have raised roughly \$7,300 so far. We have a way to go, but we're in a good place for the beginning of the year.

- ✓ There is a lot of great feedback on the new consolidated method. There are a few challenges with some of the paperwork (between checks coming into the office and PayPal), so just bear with us, while we are working out some kinks.
- ✓ FFE in lieu of the kids selling things to raise money for their school (i.e., wrapping paper, magazines, etc) and it's really easy.
- ✓ The consolidated form allows you to pay for FFE, yearbook, PTO Care Fund and room party dues.
- ✓ Because there are so many components to the online program, when communicating with the PTO regarding FFE, please include Dana Emmeneger, Jay Epstein, Jessica Graetz and Jodi Ladner on your emails, to make sure everyone is in the loop.

Mum Sale

Stephanie Gross for Betsy Cuneo

- ✓ This year's Mum sale will be on Wednesday October 1st from 3-6 pm on the blacktop or at the front of the building.
- ✓ Mums are \$10 each. Variety of colors.
- ✓ All profits go to Meramec PTO.

Room Parents/Parties

Stephanie Gross for Jennifer Wong

- ✓ There will be a meeting for all room parents on Thursday September 18th at 7pm in the Cafeteria.
- ✓ Will discuss how room parents will be handling the three parties (Halloween, Holiday and Valentines Day)
- ✓ Will discuss pictures, field trips along with other classroom activities.

Book Fair

Susan Yang

- ✓ Tuesday, October 14 - 21st
- ✓ Please watch for a Sign-Up Genius e-mail invitation or contact Susie Rubin at dsrubin@swbell.net to learn more about volunteering opportunities.
- ✓ *Used Book Sale and All For Books*: Starting October 6, there will be boxes in our school for your gently used book donations. These used books will be for sale during the fair.
- ✓ Pre-order the new Wimpy Kid book*

Meramec Market

Tanya Vedantham

- ✓ Will be held Thursday October 9th, 4-7pm on the blacktop.
- ✓ Kids buy a table and can sell things. All the money they make they get to keep.
- ✓ There will be food for sale.
- ✓ If volunteers step forward, we will still have a resale table for gently used clothing. All unsold items are donated to charity after the market.

Yearbook

Jodi Ladner

- ✓ We are putting together a school yearbook. It will be just as big as last year or bigger.
- ✓ Will have a meeting soon, everyone is welcome.

- ✓ Always looking for volunteers for layouts and helping to take pictures.
- ✓ Goal is to have at least one candid of every single student.
- ✓ Please give Jodi a call if you're interested.
- ✓ Jodi or Emily will be at the Room parent meeting to help recruit photographers.
- ✓ You can always Email or text pictures (camera pictures are okay) to Jodi or email them to the PTO email – MeramecPTO@gmail.com

Parent Connections

Stephanie Gross for Stacey Winfield

- ✓ Help coordinate parent grade specific outings. Typically held at someone's house, the PTO will give \$50 to help with the cost. Guests bring a dish, bottle of wine, etc.
- ✓ 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades are taken care of...thanks to those who have volunteered their homes. Still need a Kindergarten family to volunteer to have the kindergarten one. If you're interested please let Stacey know.

Treasurer's Report

Jay Epstein

- ✓ Treasures Report is attached
- ✓ Last year: Very strong year concerning monies in.
- ✓ We are still going to offer the Innisbrook school supply service, but it will only be done on line, not through the PTO.
- ✓ Escripts – didn't reach our goal last year. Hoping with the new kindergarten parents, we can get a bit more. Easy way to make some money.
- ✓ Didn't budget for a spring gala, if someone is interested in spearheading it that would be great.
- ✓ Room parents – New this year, we are going to take all the money collected for Room parties and divide it by six (grades) and then divide that by three (classes) and that will be each classes budget for its three parties (Halloween, Holiday and Valentines Day).
- ✓ Jay Epstein asked to vote on new 2014-2015 Budget
 - Elizabeth Thompson moves to accept the new budget
 - Stephanie Gross seconded
 - Budget was approved
- ✓ Checks/Cashbox
 - If you need any checks for an event, please email Jay Epstein ahead of time.
 - We can't issue a check without a receipt.
 - Please make sure to use Tax Exempt for when making purchases for the school. We don't reimburse for sales tax.
 - If you need cash boxes for any event, Jessica Graetz psically goes to get the money, please email us with the cash denominations you need.
- ✓ PayPal - PTO council overseas all six schools and there is a treasures committee that meets regularly.
 - One thing they will iron out this year is the concept of PayPal and how to best utilize it.

- Going forward for the 2014-2015 school year, the Meramec PTO policy is that the person utilizing PayPal is responsible for paying the fees of PayPal.
- If the council decides that's not how they want to proceed, we will change, but the majority of schools are handling it this way now.

Fundraiser

Stephanie Gross

- ✓ Typically this year we would have an auction. However, we are struggling to find someone to coordinate it.
- ✓ Ideally, it would be an on line auction, offering teacher experiences, kid's artwork, and parties, etc. (Glenridge, Captain and Reed all do one and they are very successful)
- ✓ It's a great revenue generator and would like to have it in addition to FFE.
- ✓ No social event this year. It's a tremendous undertaking, so we won't have one this year, but will plan for one for next year. Unless someone steps forward to coordinate.
- ✓ Additionally, Tanya is working on getting various restaurants to do nights where a percentage of their proceeds go to the Meramec PTO.

Communications

Angela Pompian

- ✓ Trying to reduce the amount of flyers going out
- ✓ Will not only send out emails through the toolbox, but also trying to link further info back to the website. (Links to Schuncks for escripts, or book fair to sign up for volunteers)
- ✓ We want parents to be able to access all the information they need from one place and not have to search for the information they need.

Principal's Report

Lisa Jackson Terry

- ✓ As a building and district, we have moved to zero based budgeting.
- ✓ Each year, the district spends \$300,000 on paper. Trying to make a very conscious effort to reduce this.
- ✓ Scott Osborn, Cari Lowery and Tarita Rhimes are here to help as PTO liaisons and tech educators.
- ✓ A new Clayton APP is available to allow parents access to all the information the need for the district. It's a very useful tool. Most parents have phones, and ipads and that's how they're checking for information, so it's a great resource.
- ✓ Teachers are blogging on what they're doing in their classrooms. It's all done on a secure website so no one can access it unless they have an invitation from that specific teacher. (even if you Google it, you won't see it). It's a great way for parents to see how the classroom is working and what is going on with the students.
- ✓ Summer building Improvements,

- Small Group instructional spaces (Extensions,/Gifted, - Differentiation/Intervention-Gifted, math, Reading, EI, Speech, & Language)
- K-1 Audio Enhancements for kindergarten Tables
- Gymnasium Projection Screen/PE
- Playground Climber & Amphitheater Cover/Shelter – PTO Thank you!

Staff Request

Stephanie Gross for Mike Brown

PE Teachers – Mr. Flynn and Mr. Brown are requesting \$500+ from the PTO to help provide replacement fishing gear for the 4th grade fishing trip

- ✓ 4th graders go on a fishing field trip every fall to take skills the learned in class to use in the real world experience. Their equipment needs to be replaced.
- ✓ Asking each PTO to contribute \$500 to help continue this enriching experience. This would be a one time contribution.
- ✓ Glenridge and Captain have already approved this.
 - Jay moves to accept the proposal
 - Michelle Stone Seconded,
 - Approved

New Business

Stephanie Gross

- ✓ Clubs – The salary for teachers to stay for extended learning was \$35/day. Glenridge and Captain are paying \$17.50. Each school needs to all be paying the same amount, so everyone will now be paid \$17.50.
- ✓ Teachers have the option of getting back up to the \$35 salary if they have enough students in the club, as of now, the chess club doesn't have enough kids to do this.
- ✓ Lisa Jackson Terry will look into encouraging more students to join the club.

Adjournment

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10:05AM

Next PTO Meeting Thursday, October 23, 2014 8:45 – 10 AM

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