**Meramec PTO Meeting**

**Thursday, January 22, 2015**

**8:45 – 10: AM**

**Attendance**

Jay Epstein, Jeff Orgel, Elizabeth Thompson, Angela Pompian, Lawanda Hall, Dan Fazio, Lisa Jackson Terry, Emily Whitney, Rosemary Bubnis, Rula Winnings, Bob Newmark, Cari Lowry, Stephanie Gross, Jenny Abeles, Scott Osborn

**Call To Order Stephanie Gross**

8:45 am

**Completed PTO Events Stephanie Gross**

**Lunches of Love**

Meramec’s Character Council delivered over 200 lunches and 360 bottles of water to Peter & Paul Community Services, an organization that provides housing and supportive services to the homeless, as part of the PTO’s Lunches of Love. Thank you to everyone who contributed a sack lunch. Special thanks to Sabra Engelbrecht and Cari Lowry for coordinating this effort. There will be another Lunches of Love in April.

**Staff Appreciation & Holiday Gifts**

Big thank you to Emily Whitney, Allison Thomason and the Staff Appreciation committee for putting together a wonderful holiday luncheon for the staff, catered by Chipolte. We also provided all staff (over 60 individuals) with holiday gift cards to Target.

**LEGO Drive**

Received a lot of donations that will be used by the Robotics Club and the new origami club.

**Committee Reports**

**International Night Stephanie Gross for Tanya Vedantham**

This Friday January 23rd from 6:30-8:30 PM. Fun night, 20 different countries will be represented. Information, food, pictures from the respective countries will be at each table.

**Elementary Schools Trivia Night Stephanie Gross for Jen Taussig**

Saturday January 31st, at Immaculate Conception Church. Venue is close by, you can bring your own food and alcohol. Each school was allocated 15 tables, Meramec has already sold 17 tables, we are still allowed to register more if you want to attend.

**Pancake Breakfast Bob Newmark**

February 21st, 8:30-11:30 AM at Clayton High School. Shifts are 6:30-8am, 8-10am and 10-12 am. Annual event put on by Meramec dads to raise funds for the PTO.

Typically net a few thousand dollars. We’ve already lined up volunteers for the event, and have the shifts covered, but if there are still some dad’s who would like to be involved, please let Bob know. There will be activities and crafts for the kids.

**Black History Night Lawanda Hall**

February 26th - 6-6:30PM Museum Walk in the cafeteria.

6:30-6:40 PM will perform two very upbeat songs. Bofenda Bokulaaka llonga will perform African drumming.

So far there are 14 kids participating in the museum walk. Need to get the parents to understand it’s not an evening to let your kids run around. We really need adult supervision. Hopefully some of the staff can help with it

**Funds For Excellence (FFE) S. Gross for D. Emmenegger**

Thank you to those who have donated. Majority of families have contributed, but would love everyone to participate.

Considering sending communication out explaining where your PTO funds go at Meramec.

**Room Parents/Parties S. Gross for Jennifer Wong**

Next room party is February 12th at 2:45pm. $75 stipend per grade per party. Must use tax exempt letter and submit receipts to the Treasurer’s folder for reimbursement.

**Yearbook S. Gross for Emily Kest**

Yearbook cover contest is extended until January 30th. Encouraging people to still enter. All entries regardless will be included in the yearbook. Please send any pictures you have from school events to Emily Kest - sperryemily@hotmail.com

**Treasurer’s Report Jay Epstein**

Please see Jay’s report (attached)

In accordance with the PTO Council, we need to approve the Treasurer’s report.

Angela Pompian moved, Tarita Rhimes seconded and it was approved.

**Social Event at Saratoga Lanes Angela Pompian**

Adults only social event at Saratoga Lanes on Saturday March 28th at 7:30. Very conducive to socializing, you can bring food; alcohol available for purchase. Cost is $15/person. We would like to have some sign up parties to promote socialization among parents. Pool Party, Pilates party, ideas for sign up parties are welcome. Low key, fun night.

**Communications Angela Pompian**

Think it’s a great idea to send out communication to everyone regarding where all your FFE money goes. Might encourage more participating. Whether be a sign, an email, etc.

Meramec PTO Facebook page link added to the website.

**Principal’s Report Lisa Jackson Terry**

Responsible classroom model is enforced. If children have a problem, they bring it to the teacher and they discuss how they will solve the problem.

Attendance overall continues to be the strongest in the district. Next parent Parent Principal dialogue is February 6th – Jeanne McQueen and Tarita Rhimes will discuss Meramec’s Literacy and Technologies goals. Early intervention in kindergarten to make sure everyone is getting the attention they need.

Arrival and Dismissal safety issues. Please honor the expectations that we have in place because they are set to keep everyone safe. Police are enforcing it more.

Active Shooter training - State required training on how school staff handle an active intruder in a school. Done in partnership with the police department. We have drills, we are also going to use that time to talk to our students about these drills.

Important for parents to have a conversation with your children before the school brings it up.

**Staff Request**

Clayton Elementary School Academy (ESA), summer school for elementary school children, is requesting $450 so that each child receives 2 free books and parents receive resources to help support their child with these books for the remainder of the summer. Presented by Steve Hutson, P.E. teacher at Glenridge.

Jay Epstein proposed a motion for the Meramec PTO to donate up to $750 to the ESA for each Meramec child who attends to receive two scholastic books. Seconded and approved.

Additional funds for LEGO Robotics Club. Presented by Tarita Rhimes

Lego Drive went okay. She originally asked for $750, now she really only needs about $250. Mr. P will be holding a Board game and unstructured Lego play club. There will also be a 2nd-3rd grad LEGO club using Ms. Rhimes curriculum. She will assist Mr. P.

Jay Epstein moved and it was seconded to give $250 to Ms. Rhimes for the additional LEGOs.

**New Business Stephanie Gross**

**Sweetology Gift Cards**

PTO gets a kick back of 15% for all gift cards sold by the Meramec PTO during a set time frame. Stephanie Gross to follow up with Kara Newmark, co-owner of Sweetology.

If you’re interested in being on the PTO next year, please contact Stephanie Gross.

**Adjournment Stephanie Gross**

10:00AM

**Next PTO Meeting Thursday, February 19, 2015 8:45 – 10 AM**