11/14/22 PTO minutes.

Welcome and introductions. The following were in attendance: Jessica Dumlao, Cara Downs, Dr. Jordan, Liz McCandless, Lori Barker, Joanna Dinsmore, Emily Milchanowski, Katie Weiss, Tanya Hayden, Amber Kempf, Amy Favazza, Dr. Wehner, & Dr. Daniels.

Minutes approved from 10/10/22 PTO meeting.

President’s report.

* PTO preordered 100 embroidered Clayton sweatshirts to sell at events will make approximately $1500 if all are sold. We will continue to look at different was to market the sweatshirts and if it goes well the community will potentially be able to order more. Information on how to purchase will come out in the weekly newsletter.
* Jekyll island is an 8th grade trip that will take place in the spring. PTO will host a trivia night at The Heights in Richmond Heights as a fundraiser. It will be open for all grades parents to attend. Anyone will be able to “fund a need” for specific activities and there will be auction items. The cost for Jekyll Island is approximately $600 per student. Something to think about is enough money was raised for scholarship for 6th grade camp that money could potentially be rolled into this trip or we could keep it for next year’s 6th grade trip.
* Staff appreciation committee hosted a staff dinner during conferences. Each grade provided a specified item. It was well received by staff. There is not enough in the fund to provide a meal for Thanksgiving but the committee will be hosting a holiday luncheon on December 20th that will be catered by Chartwells.
* The events that have taken place since the last meeting are as follows:

1. Clayton Connections hosted a bowling event and 18 students attended. It went well.
2. The Halloween gab and grub that took place before Halloween was a success. Going forward PTO could spend less on the cookies because the kids would appreciate it no matter how fancy the cookies.
3. Oak knoll park clean-up went well. There were approximately 29 signed up. There were communication issues with the city and they ended up not providing the trees to plant but there was a tremendous amount of honey suckle that was removed which is a plant species that is invasive to the natural vegetation. In April there will be an event to plant seedlings and the students will potentially be able to plant them in ground at a future event. Look for details at a later date in the newsletter.

* Here is a list of the events PTO has planned in the future:

1. Winter fun fest will be taking place on December 9th. PTO will be asking for parents to volunteer for various activities to help it run smoothly. The more adults there the better because staff is expecting a big turnout
2. Mod pizza fundraiser was cancelled on Mod Pizzas end because of staffing shortages. PTO is currently trying to reschedule so look to future newsletter for more information.
3. December gab and grab will take place on Friday December 16th.  PTO is still finalizing the plans. We will potentially provide hot chocolate and cookies to 8th grade and then deliver cookies to the PACK classrooms for 6th and 7th grade. The hot chocolate will potentially be delivered by Chartwells and we will need parent volunteers to serve. Look for more information in the newsletter.

Treasurer report.

* PTO is still receiving Funds for Excellence, please check with treasurer to see if you are unsure about whether or not you have donated. It is used to fund a good deal of fun activities for the students of Wydown. If you are unsure about what Funds for Excellence is please don’t hesitate to ask questions. We are having a good year with donations. Remember, if you do it before the end of December you can deduct it on your taxes.
* Since last meeting money came out for teacher appreciation and gab and grub.
* Treasurer will be looking at opening a store front for sweatshirt purchases.
* In the future PTO treasurer may use Chedder Up in place of PayPal.
* PTO will look into rebranding Funds for Excellence next year due to the confusion that sometimes surrounds its purpose.

Principle’s report given by Dr. Jordan.

* Play went well this weekend. Students called the show and teachers were backup. They were able to have their party afterwards for the first time since Covid.
* As a building teachers are working on empowered learning a couple of different ways. One way is by observing each other in the classroom to help improve their own skills. Another way is by working on sense of belonging among the students. Staff conducted a survey to determine if students felt connected to an adult in the building. This enabled them to see what students would benefit from more interactions with staff. Staff also had an activity fair so students will know what is available to get more involved in afterschool activities. Parents can consider encouraging students to engage in afterschool activities if they can’t go home immediately at the end of the day. And lastly staff is working on making sure that all students feel like they belong. We are working on the self-efficacy of the students. Dr. Daniels conducted a focus group look at what works to help students feel empowered, in particular underperforming students and to how to help them.

Questions.

1. How are you addressing the school shooting that took place in our community?

* Answer-We looked at doors and windows in each classroom and talked about what will happen in each classroom as there is specifics to each room. One thing to note is that our windows have a film on them that will not stop a bullet but makes it very difficult to break. It will hold all the shattered pieces together allowing time for students and staff to leave.

Next meeting is December 12, 2022 at 6:00pm.