

PTO Meeting Notes

Monday, Oct. 11, 2021 at 12 p.m.

Liz McCandless welcomed everyone.

Presidents' Report:

Liz McCandless asked for approval of the minutes from the Sept. 20, 2021 PTO meeting. Jessica Lewis motioned to approve and Jessica Abeles and Nancy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Jenny Abeles gave a report on the PTO Council Meeting that was held on Sept. 21.:

The PTO Council function is to give support and advice to the school PTOs. Currently the PTO Council is joining with the Clayton Education Foundation to conduct a food and essentials drive. A drive was held last year, but the supply has been depleted. Food and gift cards were given and served approximately 10-13 families per school. The Clayton Education Foundation is starting the drive with a \$500 donation. The Communications Department will be sending out the eblast, as well as posting on Facebook and Twitter and will also be creating flyers that will be sent to the various PTOs to use in their communications. Donations will be accepted Oct. 25-Nov. 5. There will be specific items that are needed listed on the flyers that have been determined by the school social workers and counselors. Items will stay at the specific school that they are donated to, but can be pulled and shared with other Clayton schools if needed.

Liz recapped the movie night: The Clayton Connections Movie Night that was held on Oct. 8 was well attended. Thank you to the Neihaus family for hosting the event. The families watched *Nightmare Before Christmas*. The next Clayton Connections event will be a coffee on Friday, Nov. 5, 8:30-10 a.m.

Liz gave a yearbook update: Jessica Dumlao is keeping track of sales.

Liz recapped the Spirit Wear: Laura Deutsch and Catherine Seltzer

Afghan Refuge Drive: Kelly Hagar will be delivering our donations on Oct. 14, 9:45 – 11 a.m. If you are interested in helping deliver the items, please contact Kelly directly at 314-580-7000.

Allie and Jamie discussed drop off/pick up procedures, with suggestions from Jenna, Aurielie and Jessica. Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures: Please help spread the word to follow safety procedures and obey the no U-Turn signs. This not only keeps our students safe but also keeps traffic flowing. If it continues to be a problem, tickets may be issued. Please do not park in the bike lanes. The expectations for drop off and pick up are that parents should be pulling all the way to the curb. Students must use the crosswalks for crossing the street. Encourage your child to meet you at a predetermined spot that is not directly in front of the school.

Allie mentioned the upcoming Parent Talks: The **School District of Clayton in partnership with All In Clayton Coalition** is proud to present our 2021-2022 Caring for Head & Heart Speaker Series. This series is aimed at supporting the social and emotional development of students by providing practical tools for caregivers and anyone who works with children. Both workshops are virtual and free to attend. Click [here](#) to register for one or both workshops. Please email kimberlysherony@claytonschoools.net with any questions. Topics include:

- Supporting Kids in a High-Performance Culture with Dr. Tim Bono - Oct. 18, 6-7 p.m.
- The Impact of Social Media on Children's Mental Health with Dr. Ram Chettiar - Oct. 26, 6-7 p.m.

Treasurer's Report:

Amber Kempf reported that \$1,210 were donated to Funds for Excellence last month.

A big thank you to Arch Orthodontics for a \$500 donation supporting the parent event at the Clayton Winehouse.

Clayton Education Foundation Update by Sandi Streaker:

Sandi is the Executive Director of the Clayton Education Foundation. The Board of the Education Foundation is made up of Clayton alumni. The foundation covers programs not covered by tax dollars that provide innovative learning experiences for students in each of the Claytons schools. Along with fundraising, they support reunions, special events and activities and sponsor the Clayton Alumni Hall of Fame and Distinguished Educator Awards for Clayton teachers. The Clayton Education Foundation sponsors the Teacher Innovation Grants. Applications will be accepted beginning in January. Donations can be made by visiting their [website](#).

Principal's Report:

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up. You will receive an email with SignUpGenius links on Oct. 13. Parents will choose the link to the teacher they want to meet with and follow the information on the SignUpGenius. Some teachers have sent this out already, so you may have already signed up. Please reserve Thursday for in-person conferences only. Due to contact tracing, drop-ins will not be allowed. All other conferences will be through Zoom. Please know that you can schedule a meeting with a teacher at any time, not just during conferences.

Panorama Survey:

The Panorama Survey is a research-based student perception survey that collects feedback data for teachers and school administrators. The Panorama Student Survey measures student perceptions of teaching and learning, culture and climate, and student experience in the classroom and school. Student perceptions of their classroom experience helps identify a teacher's strengths and areas for teacher growth.

One of the areas showing up at Wydown was the students' sense of belonging. Our counselors will be diving deeper with focus groups. The school culture is shifting. There is a social gap. We need to get kids more involved, and to learn how to socialize in a class. Our PACK times will be focusing on this with some intentional work. There was talk about earning points for items in a school store. (School store would be manned by a parent volunteer once a week.) Points would be earned by attending sports activities, after school activities, plays, etc., including Zoom activities for those students not in the district. Devising a way for students to earn points and feel a sense of belonging. Points could also go toward the purchase of a yearbook, etc. Looking at what we can plan for the spring to help bridge the gap for trips and camps that have been cancelled.