MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PTO COUNCIL FOR

GLENRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thursday, February 17, 2022

A meeting of the PTO Council for Glenridge Elementary School was held, as scheduled pursuant to due notice on February 17, at 9:30 am CST via zoom conference.

The following members of the Board were present at the meeting: Lynn Courter, Co-President; Kathryn Yorg, Vice-President; Sarah Boyce, Secretary; Joanna Dinsmore,

Communications; Denise Stouffer, Teacher-Representative; Beth Scott, Principal; Jenny Abeles, PTO Council Rep.

**Call to Order & Introductions: Lynn Courter**

**Principal’s Report: Beth Scott**

Black History Month –we’ve been using the Periodic Table of Black History. Each week we’ve had a mystery guest, last week was an individual who works in Human Resources at BJC. In the past we’ve had one event in the gym – this year we’re doing an event at the end of every week. The events wrap up at the end of next week. Every 5th grade leader is doing their part in morning announcements. We can use the PTO to help in the last week of Black History month to put out an event for families We’d have a raffle for families to win gift cards to shop at a the Eye.See. Mebookstore. We need someone to help/organize. Lynn can help if nobody from the committee offers. The quality and outcome of Black History month is great.

Valentines Party’s went well. We’re navigating volunteer check-in/sign-in and working through it which will take time.

Courter asked if we are taking spring photos – we’ve had them in the past. Interstate studios asks if we want to run them again, it captures students that have moved into the district. It’s also an opportunity to get a whole class photo in front of the school with students from head to toe. Beth will check and follow-up.

**Teacher Representative Report: Denise Stouffer**

Reiterated that the Valentine’s Parties were great.

The Interactive Board arrived; the wrong stand was sent to us so it’s not in a classroom yet

**Presidents’ Report: Lynn Courter**

Thanks to the grade level liaisons for the Valentines Day Parties. There’s room for improvement on making sure that the grade level liaisons communicate plans to the teachers.

Welcome activities for Dr Rhimes, in-coming Glenridge principal. Courter asked if we should invite her to a PTO meeting? Beth is working with the central office team for a roll-out and plan. We will invite her to all events before year-end. We’ll shoot for April/May to bring her more on board and have her meet parents. It’s important for her to get to meet faculty, parents, and students.

**Vice-President’s Report**: **Kathryn Yorg**

Need to discuss roles for next year. Kathryn and Lynn will be co-president’s next year. Beth recommended that Denise stay on as the teacher representative. Denise accepted. Joanna will be leaving PTO because it’s her last year at Glenridge, she’s happy to give guidance to her successor.

Sarah will continue as secretary.

**Treasurer’s Report:** J**amie Beyer was absent, and Lynn presented**

Funds for excellence and PTO dues came in with Glenridge Holiday assistance and t-shirts.

Strawberry Festival deposits were made for the bubble bus, photos and games.

Beyer researched an option for online bill-pay, but it can take longer to pay. Beyer will start using it for bills that aren’t pressing. Beyer asked if we can add something in the PTO document that it’ll take ‘x number of days’ to pay something. Abeles mentioned we added this to the accounting procedures last year.

We had a $7k budget for gifts and contributions to the school. Beth is working with parent volunteers who served on the last GCC Board. GCC (former privately run Glenridge before and after care program)will officially dissolve as Kid-Zone (the District run before and after care program) has been in place successfully for now two school years (during COVID). The GCC board will most likely vote to donate some of their remaining funds to Glenridge PTO. Denise and Beth are looking at what items they can replace with that money and there will be an amount donated to PTO. The money could be used for upgrading the playground. There was a teacher survey a few years ago about upgrading the outside meeting spots on our grounds for the ability to have more classes outside. The survey is saved on google drive. There were good suggestions in the survey from teachers. Should The PTO receive the large donation from GCC it was suggested that PTO revisit the results of this survey.

**PTO Council Update:** **Jenny Abeles**

There was a meeting last week and talked about issues where schools could be struggling or exceeding. PTO’s do face struggles with parent engagement. It was suggested to talk to the teachers o for new parent volunteer ideas in their classrooms. It was also discussed that Funds for Excellence is always a challenge.

All in Collation had a virtual event last week. Also having a Hidden in Plain View display, for which they’re setting up a bedroom during conf week at Clayton high school to highlight all the dangers that are around

**Other Business:**

Teacher Appreciation: Beth mentioned the treats given after the snow days were appreciated.

During upcoming parent/teacher conf week, teachers will be in the building for conferences even if they’re virtual. Typically, a dinner was provided that week on Wednesday night by the teacher appreciation team

Color run: it was planned for 2020 but hasn’t happened. The colors are in the PTO closet. Beth will ask in principally speaking if someone wants to lead it. We could do it in April instead of March.

**Conclusion**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20am. Next meeting is March 10.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sarah Boyce, PTO Secretary