

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PTO COUNCIL FOR
GLENRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Friday, January 22, 2021

A meeting of the PTO Council for Glenridge Elementary School was held, as scheduled pursuant to due notice on January 22, 2021, at 2:00pm CST via zoom conference.

The following members of the Board were present at the meeting: Joanna Dinsmore, Co-President; Lilly Scharff, Co-President; Lynn Courter, Vice-President; Mary Bower, Treasurer; Leslie Hamel, Secretary; Denise Stouffer, Teacher-Representative; Beth Scott, Principal.

The following ex-Officio Advisors and members were present: Liz McCandless; Guifang Dong; Sarah Kunza.

Principal's Report: Beth Scott

Students are doing remarkably well at school despite the pandemic - Lots of joy can be observed outside on the playground.

Considerations for doing Valentine's celebrations in a safe manner: The possibility of either Wed. Feb. 10 and/or Thurs. Feb. 11 for distributions of Valentine's boxes, cards and exchanges within each classroom. Leave cards and boxes at school over the long President's Day weekend as precaution (just as we do with library books) and then students bring home after the long weekend.

Today was a CLAYMO day: Fifth grade leaders helped create inspiring goal settings along the themes of "Be," - Examples, "Be Brave" 'Be Kind,' etc.

During a normal month of February, we would plan a "Merge of Cultures" event however due to Covid, this will be cancelled for this year. In honor of Black History Month, 3rd-5th grade students across all three elementary schools are working towards a project to create videos, and video-interviews with black members of our community.

Glenridge teachers are working with Cameron Poole, the Director of Equity and Inclusion, on a new "Equity Challenge" to be held Feb. 12 through Feb. 26. An assortment of learning materials and tools including podcasts, books, articles, and other means of connecting will be provided, and teachers will be challenged to take action each day from what they have learned. Possibility to extend this challenge to Glenridge parents and families. Follow-up conversations to be had.

School pictures & yearbook pictures - Can families purchase class 'composite' pictures of both classes? (Example, some students participated in two different classes this year, Learn@Home and in-School.) More information coming.

Strawberry Festival cancelled for this year.

Teacher Representative Report: Denise Stouffer

"Movie & a Dinner" gift for staff before winter break was much appreciated by Glenridge teachers.

PTO Council Update: Susan Kronemer

Next PTO Council meeting will be Feb. 9 at 6:30pm, via zoom. PTO Jumpstart meeting will be May 4, 6:30pm via zoom. The purpose of the Jumpstart Meeting will be to assist incoming board members (new

and returning) for the next school year: review district procedures, PTO procedures, etc. If you are interested in participating in PTO Council board, there are several openings this coming year - please contact Susan Kronemer. The only requirements are 2 years of serving on your school PTO board.

Presidents' Report: Joanna Dinsmore & Lilly Scharff

No presidents report today.

Note: New & returning PTO Board Members should be in place before the May 4 PTO Council meeting.

Consideration for next year: Incorporate a new position as "Past President" as an advising position.

Vice-President's Report: Lynn Courter

No report today.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Bower

See Treasurer's statements.

There is \$300 in the budget for Black History Month events. Also, \$100 from Taste-of-the-World could be moved-over to other school event needs. \$60/per grade allotted for Valentine's classroom activities. Jamie Beyer has agreed to be PTO Treasurer next year.

Other Business

- Fifth Grade Fundraising Gift - Liz McCandless: Shared list of 5th grade student suggestions for fundraising & school gift options. Have already started a 5th grade cookbook. Suggestions for school gifts include goal posts for new turf field, backboards, benches.

Upcoming Events:

- Lunar New Year Decorations - limited to teachers & staff. No assistance needed from PTO at this point.

- Valentine's Day classroom activities/snack, Thurs. Feb. 11: Note from Beth: Ask parent liaisons to create individual kits for students (rather than enough materials for each class) to make things easier for teachers since there are no parent volunteers this year. Decisions will be made at grade-levels regarding students bringing in individual cards & treats from home to share, or doing virtual, paper-free valentines exchanges.

- Indian Heritage Events: Color Run postponed from spring 2020. Supplies and materials will be kept until next school year.

- Questions & Considerations for 5th Grade Promotion this year: Positive reviews of 5th grade parade from last year. Follow-up conversations to be had.

- Considerations for Field Day this year. Not clear if parent volunteers will be needed this year. Follow-up conversations to be had.

The next PTO meeting will be on Friday February 19, 2021 at 2:00pm CST via zoom conference.

Conclusion

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Joanna Dinsmore, Co-President