MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PTO COUNCIL FOR

GLENRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thursday November 18, 2021

A meeting of the PTO Council for Glenridge Elementary School was held, as scheduled pursuant to due

The following members of the Board were present at the meeting: Lynn Courter, Co-President; Lilly Scharff, Co-President; Kathryn Yorg, Vice-President; Sarah Boyce, Secretary; Jamie Beyer, Treasury; Denise Stouffer, Teacher-Representative; Beth Scott, Principal; Jenny Abeles

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

Congrats to Beth!

**Principal’s Report: Beth Scott**

The PTO will have work to do onboarding the new principal. The role is going to board approval tonight and should be posted this week or next and open through the winter holiday. There will be some parent and teacher focus groups. When Meramac hired a principal there was a student group of 4th/5th graders. The central office team will hold interviews as well. Beth’s last day is end of June. She started in the spring 14 years ago and did side by side at the end of that school year. She valued an off site location to connect with PTO as she was starting. She recalls a committee that welcomed her. Will ask that there’s a committee for her successor. Beth was poached while she was at Parkway. Clayton has great recruiting and is a great district to work for.

Lilly asked if Beth will be around when classes are being formed for next year. Beth will make recommendations before leaving.

Stephanie Fougerty (2nd grade teacher) is also retiring.

We have a 4th section of 5th grade this year so the numbers of teachers will balance out.

Super thanks to this community for support on giving the week off for Thanksgiving. Covid has caused everyone to push pause and let us create focus on family and friends. Teachers well being is super important and we’re grateful for them. Our community is so accepting. We’re using snow days from Dec/Jan. Everyone is off except for Kid Zone, the facilities workers were given extra time/pay because they’ll be on site next week. We’ll come back and give it all through Dec 22. Usually the Wed before Thanksgiving is the comp day and it’s hard to place a day off after parent/teacher conf day. The district calendar committee is discussing looking at the calendar and making it real for the families and educators. It’s a difficult year for the educators and wearing a mask all day takes its toll. The teachers are as amazing as always.

Kathryn asked/heard that the middle school was taking records of how many kids were vaccinated. She’s asking to get an understanding around quarantining. Beth doesn’t have an answer yet. Record keeping occurs in the nurses clinics around vaccination requirements for school attendance. TBD how Covid wraps into that based on mandates on the state level.

**Teacher Representative Report:  Denise Stouffer**

Last meeting we talked about the read a thon funds. Classrooms have smart boards, cameras, projectors that are starting to break and the quality isn’t as good as it could be. Last year we looked at smart boards for interactive displays. There are new products in the market clear touch and clever touch. The ed techs tried them out last year and decided on what the replacement would be – Clear Touch. Think of a huge TV on a stand (not on the wall so there’s mobility). Very easy to use, we started with 3 Clear Touch boards in the building at the beginning of this school year and just ordered a 4th. We’re very happy with them and would like more. We need to replace our current boards and haven’t purchased these types of items in awhile. Denise would like to order 2 more with the read a thon funds. She’d like to outfit an entire grade level (3 classrooms). The Clear Touch is $3,300 – let’s us wirelessly display, comes with stand, mobile.

Inquiry from a specialist on the fund cuts. We had cut the funds because PTO dues were down. The cuts were only for this year, not permanent. They were told we weren’t giving funds and the ask was if this was just for this year. There were 6 specialists that got $500 each. Something to think about for next year’s budget. There was maker space money where Denise used to purchase items. Beth and Denise can check with the specialists on what’s needed/used. And we could put back in with the read a thon money or on as an need basis. The group isn’t saying it needs funds to be reinstated this year. Denise would prefer having the boards than the specialist funds. We didn’t spend money last year because of Covid, a large tix item for the specialists item can also be funded out of the school budget.

Can’t vote in this meeting on the Clear Touch, need to vote at the next meeting.

Lilly propsal to consider and vote spending $3,300 on Clear Touch. 2nd and will vote at the next meeting.

**Presidents’ Report: Lynn Courter & Lilly Scharff**

Lilly and Beth have discussed the masking offline. The tweaks we discussed are being addressed. Families are being contacted if kids aren’t wearing masks. Kids are being asked to wear them properly. ‘Over your nose, that’s where it goes’ Students are resilient and proud of getting their shots. Clayton is proud of their numbers. Clayton treated 500 children at the district clinic. Faculty had to show proof of vaccination on Monday, if not vaccinated then you need weekly testing.

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

Contracts signed for supply kits. Kathryn is the contact for the kits. There’s an option to have the kits delivered to the school or people get delivered at home. The whole school needs to either get deliveries at home or school. The school would prefer having the kits delivered to homes. Let’s review the charges for home delivery before deciding.

She asked if we were doing the Barnes and Noble book fair – No.

We have a chair, Manyika Mckoy for Black History month, she’s pregnant. Working to have something district wide across the elementary schools. Beth will work to find an additional person.

**Treasurer’s Report: Jamie Beyer**

Read a Thon came in $8,400 over budget. If we fund two Clear Touch we’d have leftover from read a thon. We are getting small amounts of PTO dues in. We’re down $1k on funds for excellence and $1,500 for PTO dues. We went over on the Kona Truck but our Paypal fees have been higher. It’ll be tight to purchase 2 Clear Touch. Jamie can run more numbers and report on it more in an email to lay it out.

Beth mentioned Read a thon money is general but when we earmark (show old smart board vs Clever Touch) could be able to raise more on funds for excellence. End of fiscal year people often like to donate for tax purposes.

Denise asked if it makes sense to do the fund raising at the beginning of next school year. Lilly suggested we purchase 1 Clear Touch now. Kathryn asked if the 5th grade gift has been confirmed yet and how much do they usually spend on it. If you don’t ask you don’t get and people like to have goals. 5th grade gift is budgeted at $1,500. It tends to be something student generated and that they think the school needs. One year the 5th grade gift was cots for the nurses office, one year it was a framed pic for the library. The students raise the money and we put ownership in the classes hands.

We can think of other events with income i.e strawberry festival.

Not much activity since the last meeting. $180 came in on PTO dues. Only received $245 so far on the holiday drive – budgeted $2k. There are 30 children on their list and they were hoping to raise $3k. How can we encourage more donations. Might be more success afterful Thanksgiving ahead of the December holiday. 2 more checks came in for read a thon. Let’s keep on the table that we might want to make a PTO contribution for the holiday drive. We were dependent on the food pantry fundraiser to fund what’s going in the backpacks weekly. We need to ensure we have a system that the social worker or nurse has done some shopping to ensure they’re shopping to budget. If the money dips low we might need to ask for funds. PTO council for the district just did a push in the food and essentials drive, that money is more for families that need help with rent or paying a bill. The school social workers can access the money. Beth needs to make sure her assistant knows who to contact about filling the pantry. The PTO needs to reimburse.

**PTO Council Update: Jenny Abeles**

Food and essentials Drive raised almost $7k, every school collected food. The Family center collected 2 big bins of food and delivered it to Glenridge. Wydown and the high school collected a lot of food so we can pull from other schools if we need to. Wydown has way too much food. She met with Dr Wenes yesterday and Sandy Stucker and will do the food drive earlier next year – maybe during Parent Teacher Conf. Will get the date in the next few months so we can work towards it for next year.

The current Glenridge funds is for families to get gift cards during the holidays - Kohls, Target, Sam cards. Jenny thought there were summer gift cards given as well. Let’s check and make sure the money isn’t already accounted for. Beth will check with Katy Burheart who’s in the building tomorrow. Denise mentioned the kids are confused because there are so many collections going on. People start to get burned out. Is there a preference between early Oct and parent/teacher conferences. Kathryn and Lynn like the idea for parent/teacher conferences. Can we get the kids more excited about the food and essentials drive by running a contest. If you bring in food can there be a class party – pjs. At Wydown they had a cereal drive – whatever class had the most cereal won a prize. Beth is supportive of a contest. Glenridge could do their own drive.

Jenny will provide a schedule on reminders/blasts that could help.

**Other Business:**

Halloween parties went well. 2 volunteers/class worked and the parade was well attended and able to be outside. Everyone was super excited.

Picture retakes went well

Lynn asked that parents asked about submitting yearbook photos. There hasn’t been an ask yet, they’re working on a communication for submission. Typically there’s an app for picture submission to the yearbook.

**Upcoming events**

Glenridge gives is underway and might need encouragement

Spanish Heritage month

**Conclusion**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33am. Next meeting is December 9.

Respectfully submitted,

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