MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PTO COUNCIL FOR

GLENRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thursday December 9, 2021

A meeting of the PTO Council for Glenridge Elementary School was held, as scheduled.

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; Beth Scott, Principal; Jenny Abeles, PTO Council Rep.

Marisa Gelfand, 3rd grade parent;, Emily ??

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

**Principal’s Report: Beth Scott**

Glenridge is doing well even though we have reported cases of COVID.  Unfortunately, Beth has to send a standard letter which limits what she can say.  There are isolated cases and cases among siblings. Protocols in place requires that the form letter is sent to all with every positive case. 3rd grade is the one place where there have been are more than 2 positive cases in the past week.  Kids can be are very asymptomatic and it’s very possible there are other positive cases in the school.  We have been a little short staffed. We are grateful that several of our subs are parents of current students and alumni students of Glenridge.  One 3rd grade class is the only one that has more than one positive and we’re waiting on results for a sibling of a student who tested positive in this class. Rapid tests can be false alarms, for example, the school sent a staff member home thinking they had a positive case from a school test but the PCR was negative.  We’re trying not to set alarm bells off and to keep kids in school and keep them socialized.  You’ll get a personal phone call if anyone in your child’s class tests positive and you’ll know if your child has been in close contact with the positive case.  You’ll learn more about the individual class circumstances if your child is in class with a confirmed positive case.  I’m hoping that parents don’t read into the letters and think there’s a huge outbreak at Glenridge. What we are experiencing is in line with what we’re seeing an uptick in STL and is also occurring in the other Clayton schools.

Lilly suggested that we share that it’s a lot of siblings, if it can be shared.  Beth relayed that she will share what she can with those who reach out.  She encourages people to reach out to her if they are nervous.  There were no additional cases from the first two students that were siblings and they’re on day 10. It’s possible there was spread in the one 3rd grade class. Many parents from this class kept their children at home to be safe.

Marisa suggested sending a reminder to parents to follow school protocols outside of school.  Could there be encouragement to keep the siblings home until there’s two negative tests.  Beth said it makes sense and 1on1 the nurses are talking to the families.  There are situations when the siblings are kept apart at home.  It’s very hard to do this, especially if children in the home are toddlers and people don’t wear masks at home.  Beth will send a reminder on school precautions and what people can do outside of school.  There was a lot of travel and socializing over Thanksgiving. 60% of the country is vaccinated.  Beth is proud and happy to be working at Clayton.  The attorney general for the state has said that school districts can’t tell everyone they need to wear masks.  Clayton is working with their attorneys to understand this. Meanwhile we’ll continue to wear masks as a mitigating factor.  One of our teacher’s husbands is a principal at another district where people are boycotting the masks.  Thankful and grateful that we don’t have that at Glenridge.

No additional questions for Beth.

**Teacher Representative Report:**

Beth gave the report because Denise was out. Teachers are excited about the gift wrapping. Volunteers need to be vaccinated or have a negative covid test.

Last year we did the dinner and a movie gift baskets, we aren’t planning to do that again because of budgeting and our instead wrapping teachers gifts.

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

Voting to spend the $3,330 to purchase the one Clear Touch technology that we discussed at the last meeting. Lynn moves that we use $3300 of our funds to purchase one Clear Touch. Emily seconds. All in favor. Thanks from Beth!

Still behind $2125 on funds for excellence and PTO dues, paypal fees are over budget by 335, Kona ice truck was over by $194. Overbudget by $2600 but in read a thon we made an additional $8400 so net over by $5,800. We easily have the budget for one clear touch but recommend waiting on the 2nd based on other activities that happen through the year. We do get a trickle in monthly for PTO dues and funds for excellence.

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

No updates on positions.

Have confirmed and circled back on school supplies, there was feedback on having the supplies sent home instead of school. People can select the option to have them sent home. Kathryn will follow-up to encourage that as an only option.

**Treasurer’s Report: Jamie Beyer**

Statement of activity. Received another $270 on PTO dues and $125 for Glenridge Gives, $1594 on GR Holiday assistance. The goal for GL holiday assistance is $3k. We’ve received $1839 of gift cards so that should bring us up to $3k. We’ve budgeted $2k on paypal.

No questions for Jamie.

**PTO Council Update: Jenny Abeles**

Jessica Graft and Jenny are working on a one pager of the bylaws to give a quick reference to everyone so they don’t have to read through a 20-page bylaw report. Jenny is doing one for the PTO council and it can be quickly amended for the school. Jenny can work with the President’s for the other schools to adapt, it’s an easy reference. Thanks!

No questions for Jenny.

**Other Business:**

Lynn heard a lot of positive feedback for the full week of Thanksgiving break. Kathryn is on the calendar committee for the district and heard a lot of positive feedback and overwhelming support. The feedback community wise was an earlier headsup so people can plan.

Black History month is coming up. Manika McKoy is going to chair, she met with Beth and the 3 principals and Cameron, early in the month last month. Beth will send an email to see if anyone wants to join her. The district is going to regroup so we’re ready to go in Jan to kick off in Feb.

Holiday Sing started before Beth joined Glenridge. Pre covid the Sing a long was in the gym with all grades assembled. We haven’t done any assemblies since Covid. We have permission to gather the students for a sing a long before the break, kids have to remain in cohorts. We can’t have the community join but we’ll be hosting 40 min opportunities for 3 grades at a time to join with groups 12 feet aparts. The kids love it. Sorry we can’t have parents in the building for it. Communication will go out with the children. It’ll be the first time we’ve assembled.

Claymo next Friday, Beth will solicit the 5th graders to talk about how you interact at an assembly.

Lynn asked if parents can watch the assembly via video. One song we have copyright to, the music teacher will make sure that song is video-taped. She’ll send something out and will encourage teachers to send videos of their classes. You won’t get the whole thing but will get a portion. Music and Zoom is very copy righted so we have to abide by that. The assembly will be Dec 22, the last day before break.

**Upcoming events**

N/A

**Conclusion**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33am. Next meeting is December January 20, 2022 at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

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