Meeting Minutes

PTO Council Meeting

April 18, 2024

Attendees: Laura Seelbach, Kathryn Yorg, Deanna Pallagallo, Cara Downs, Nisha Patel, Luke Heitert, Meredith Reese, Madeline Akins, Betsy Meyland-Smith, Allyson Lavender, Lilly Scharff, Jenny Abeles, Jessica Graetz

District Update: Dr. Nisha Patel

* Standardized testing in April at all schools- MAP, NWEA, AP
* Award ceremonies taking place in all schools
* Long range facilities master plan RFPs went out; interviews with architectural firms have been undertaken; Paragon is the firm chosen; community engagement will be a priority; planning portion of the project to realistically wrap up this time next year
* Clayton Education Foundation Hall of Fame induction was last week
* In process of hiring a new director SSD for the district

Board of Education Update: Stacy Siwak

* Newly elected BOE members are Leo Human and Pam Lyss-Lerman
* New officers elected; new committee assignments given this past week; Pam Lyss-Lerman will attend PTO Council meetings going forward
* MO Senate Bill 727 in committee now may affect our public schools; BOE is keeping an eye on the movement along with our elected representatives
* Meramec request for new classrooms needed due to overcrowding will be addressed at next BOE meeting
* Better communication and community engagement will be goals for the next BOE term

Treasurer’s Report: Jessica Graetz

* PTO Council dues for each member school will remain the same at $500 for next year
* Back to School Bash dues will be $75 per school

School Board Candidate Forum: Jenny Abeles

* Forum planned and hosted by PTO Council before the election, including a mailed Voters Guide and reminder postcard
* Approximately 90 people attended the in-person forum; online video has 100 views

E-blast Update: Meredith Reese

* Google rule change has e-blast notifications not going out to PTO Leadership
* From now to the end of the year, e-blast requests must go through PTO presidents or communications officers, not committee chairs
* District communications staff is launching a new web site next year with Google Form that will be easier for all users and fix the notification problem

New PTO Council Slate: Jenny Abeles

* Vote Called to approve slate for next year of Jessica Graetz, Lilly Scharff, Laura Seelbach, Laura Pierson, Abby Goldstein, Tahnee Whitlock
* Deanna Pallagallo motioned to approve the slate; Madeline Akins seconded; motion carried unanimously

Back to School Bash: Jessica Graetz

* More food trucks needed this year
* Jessica Graetz will meet with high school to get mascot and cheerleader attendance
* Individual PTOs will market the event to their communities as they see fit
* Tentative date is Thursday, Aug. 15

Individual PTO Check-ins: Jessica Graetz

* Glenridge – Recent challenge in giving gift cards to teachers on medical leave
* Family Center – Parents Night Out on May 2
* Meramec – Great year fundraising, high participation at events
* Wydown – Spring Fling on Friday night, biggest success was spirit wear sales
* Captain – Community building goal was met for the year; inquiry into PTO vote by proxy rules in PTO? Council needs to specify rule on that by our next meeting