

EILMS General PTO Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 23, 2016

Attendance: Lisa Dush, Bob Rutter, Dot Keil, Anna Gray, Tracie Lees, Jenny Callif, Brittny Parsons, Suzanne Mets, Lovely Santer, Henrietta Prysyczewska, Catt Dimes, Missy Tew, Stefanie Osborne, Cindy McCain, Tracie Garrett, Julie Rutter

BUDGET

After reviewing the draft budget, the following changes were recommended: add 5th grade and 7th grade parties, add funds for International Club and Science Club, change name of Power of the Pen to Literary Club, add 6th grade T-shirts, add Bobcat Revue talent show, increase the Principal's Discretionary Fund, omit Fun Fair, and rename "Staff Stipends" to "Staff Gift." Missy Tew made the motion to approve the budget with above amendments. Lisa Dush seconded. Vote was unanimous.

FUNDRAISERS

BOBCAT CARDS

The Bobcat Card sale is being chaired this year by Joanne Taylor is Chair. Heidi Card and Bob Rutter are also serving on the committee. There was an emphasis this year on increasing the number of local vendors. Currently the card has 13 vendors including Hoffbrauhaus and Dewey's. Another change this year is that cards will be sequentially numbered so we can track them. Dot Keil suggested we consider purchasing window clings for all of our vendors and asking them to display a vendor placard by the register that gives information on where to purchase cards. Jenny Callif indicated that if we had the cards available by September 16, they could be sold at alumni weekend events.

The group discussed that the messaging for the Bobcat Card sale should indicate the PTO will no longer commit to individual payouts for students. Based on suggestions from legal counsel, we need to reconsider how we structure payouts for the DC trip. Keeping individual accounts for students may be in violation of IRS code if it is deemed that the funds are a significant amount of our fundraising activity. We discussed having a vote at our next public meeting for how to restructure the fundraising payouts. Julie Rutter indicated that this could be an executive board decision. During this meeting, the board decided to research options by talking to a tax attorney. Also, Bob Rutter and Anna Gray plan to attend the booster fiscal responsibility workshop sponsored by Grandview Schools treasurer Beth Collier.

Update: as a result of attending the fiscal responsibility workshop, the Executive Board voted by email on 9/2/16 to restructure the fundraising payout system. The PTO will no longer track individual sales, but rather will make a collective donation to Prodigy to offset DC trip expenses for families.

WALK-A-THON

Julie Freeman is chairing our new fundraiser, which has been renamed MOVE-a-THON. It will be held on Wednesday, October 5 (in conjunction with RLS who picked the date because it is National Walk to School Day.) Tracie Lees hopes to have all students participate at the same time—the goal is to make it a 4-8 grade event. She would like students to walk with their grade levels on different routes. Because the whole school is participating, teachers can staff the walking routes with minimal need for parent volunteers. A large gathering at the beginning or end of the walk will be planned. Jenny Califf will reserve the HS & MS gyms and the stadium and Julie Freeman will check with the city about construction in the neighborhood that might impact the walk. Participation prizes were discussed, such as a patch or pedometer. The suggestion was to avoid water bottles.

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CITRUS SALE

Tracy Garrett has received 2016 price lists for the Citrus Sale. This year we can sell online. Dates for sale will be confirmed soon. The Citrus Sale may become its own fundraiser separate from the PTO.

ACTIVITIES

One suggestion for a Family Fun events is the Get Air trampoline park at Mill Run. 7th Grader are considering a tailgate for their after-hours PTO-funded party.

COMMITTEES

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Missy Tew gave an update on the EILMS school supply sale. Overall, it went very smoothly. In addition to supply sales, we also received \$68 in donations. Grandview schools enjoys a great partnership with First Day school supplies. As a company, they have even donated to the Education Foundation gala. Missy would like to start planning for next year in January. She is creating a parent survey to solicit feedback including suggestions for how to improve the process. Meeting participants encouraged her to work more closely with teachers & principals to ensure the type and quantity of supplies in each kit are truly needed.

PLAYGROUND

Some parents have approached the principal about the playground needing more equipment and maintenance. Tracie Lees indicated that the school spent \$2400 for asphalt for the gaga ball pit over the summer. Parent Stefanie Osborne has done a significant amount of research on playground improvements based on her work with a committee for Kindergarten Hill at RLS. She agreed to serve as a resource for future discussions. Some suggestions were adding a picnic table, painting/patching the asphalt, or building some PVC 9-square game structures like the ones SuperGames brings for field day. Another suggestion was an artist-in-residence project possibly funded by the Education Foundation. It was suggested that the PE teachers could make recommendations about equipment (balls, hula hoops, etc.) We could add a Playground Improvement Chair, although the teacher liaisons thought this might be a project the students would like to adopt. We could potentially do a specific fundraiser for playground improvements. Moo Moo Car Wash is a possibility, although not if this would interfere with the partnership they have with the marching band.

Respectfully submitted,
Dot Keil