

PTO Board Meeting 4/30/2013

Present: Shelby Connell, Dana McCloskey, Carousel Bayrd, Sarah Van Riet

Absent: Jen Roth, Susie Anderson

<p>Discuss Next Year Events: Shelby</p>	<p>SCHEDULE VERY FULL FOR NEXT YEAR ALREADY: Carnival: Gym will be less available in spring 2014 b/c gymnastics equipment will be there most weeks from 2/7/14-4/12/14. Carnival requires gym and cafeteria space. Feb 28 tentative date for Carnival, will have access to 1/2 of elementary school gym, middle school gym, and cafeteria. Might be able to move some games to hallways as well. Shelby to follow-up with carnival committee. Winter Dance: The Thai family will again organize, support Multicultural night: Committee remains intact, states they'd like it to be "bigger." Science Night: Will likely continue same next year Art Fair: Probably repeat next year, first Saturday after Spring Break Teacher Appreciation: same Talent Show: Consider cancel evening show due to tight schedule/ room availability and many events next spring...could rely on the lunch talent shows that Mrs. Keeler runs instead. Ice Cream Social: Group discusses idea of modifying to a picnic night- bring your own food/drink, PTO will supply popsicles as dessert. Open House- Questions/ideas about changing this possibly. Shelby spoke to PTO at Orchard Ridge who has had success w/grade based "classroom pizza" nights at beginning of year, helps families get to know who is in class, teacher can present basic information to group, PTO can have sign up sheets there for class parents, and group can socialize a bit as well. After lengthy discussion, group agrees to consider a change. Shelby will propose to Mrs. Keeler. Benefits Nights Expected: SERRV- Susie coordinating Noodles- early October on a Monday Great Dane? Group agrees to try again spring 2014 Stone's Throw? Idea of clothing resale event- Dana to check Culvers? Qdoba? Group discusses and agrees not to pursue these. But maybe Michael's Frozen Custard?</p>

<p>Budget</p>	<p>Time For Kids: Peg will talk to staff about this, PTO has funded 1/2 or more of cost in past, the magazines are used consistently by classrooms. PTO agrees will offer to cover \$1000 (just over half) of cost and school budget will cover rest. Shelby will tell Peg.</p> <p>Technology: iPad pricing through district not as low as expected. Shelby proposes idea to decrease purchase of light boxes to 3 (instead of 4) and keep iPad purchase at 20 total. This will keep total cost. All agree to move ahead with this plan.</p> <p>After School classes raised \$17,000 this year! Question from Shelby if we could pay teachers \$5/hr more (currently \$30/hr), and also cover some prep time for teachers in addition to the time they spend teaching. Group agrees that ok to raise rate for teachers as long as still raise funds for school, and approx 1-2 hours of prep time paid is reasonable (e.g. if class will meet for 4 one-hour sessions, we could pay teacher for those four hours, and up to an extra 2 for prep time). Shelby plans to continue to be the point person for these classes next year- she works with teacher or parent teaching class to set series dates, class size, sibling discount, etc.</p> <p>Teacher funds that we give each fall (\$200/teacher each year) historically if money not spent Mrs. Keeler pools it and uses as she sees fit. PTO prefers teachers have more free access to these funds to spend in early fall for room set up or later in year as needs arise. Current system limits when they can spend money using P-cards from district, and the P-cards are restricted (no itunes purchases, for example). Dana offers to do the accounting for this if each teacher submits receipts to Dana, she will reimburse them each up to \$200/ year starting fall 2013. Shelby notes that PTO will not have funds for reimbursement until November, but group agrees this will be better for all.</p> <p>Dana will use extra PTO funds to get a \$5000 CD at bank as investment. Will still have \$8000 budget surplus after that. All agree.</p>
<p>PTO meetings next year</p>	<p>Shelby posing question to group on how to set up meetings next year (how many business vs. general vs. board meetings). Discussion (lengthy) on how to get more parents involved. Poor attendance at PTO business meetings. General meetings draw larger crowds depending on topic. Group agrees on idea to have a "PTO room parent" from each class attend meetings, act as liaison between PTO and class, help with communications and volunteer recruitment, etc. We need to write up a description of what room parent duties would be. One goal of this is to gather more involvement in PTO.</p>

<p>School Supplies Change?- Sarah</p>	<p>Sarah and some parents/neighbors have been brainstorming easier way to manage purchase of school supplies to save money and hassle. Seems silly for each parent to buy 30 pencils or 12 glue sticks, when if we purchased 9,000 pencils at once we would surely get a discount. Group discussed logistics of a change including: <u>potential benefits:</u> possibly lower cost, less hassle for parents, provide for students who cannot afford supplies <u>potential negatives/barriers:</u> many families like to buy their own supplies, teachers would have to agree on grade level supply lists, we cannot require all families to participate which will be difficult to track, unclear who would purchase (staff vs parent) and the work of sorting and ordering could be big</p> <p>suggestion to start with surveymonkey survey to parents this spring with intention of offering "opt-in" to a group supply purchase for 2014-2015 school year if enough interest.</p> <p>Sarah will discuss with neighbor who had some ideas and try to get out a survey to families and report back to group in May or next fall.</p>
<p>Summer board meet?</p>	<p>All send summer schedules (out of town) to Shelby so she can try to plan one meeting over summer for board.</p> <p>Also, We will plan to have a table at August registration again next fall as did last year</p>
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>May 14 presentation from district on MONDO new literacy curriculum, followed by business meeting including vote next year's PTO board.</p>