

Mills River Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes

October 20, 2022

1pm (In-Person)

Meeting Called to Order/Attendance

- *Attendance: Kacie Tilley, Amanda Ledbetter, Amy McKinstry, Tracy Klaes, Beth Campbell, Kevin Enclay, Lauren Klocko, Nicole Sweat, Stacey Klepp, Jessica Lucas, Ms. Marks, Katherine Dare (phone)*

President's Welcome

Amanda Ledbetter

NC Accessibility For Parks (AFP) Grant Program for the "Mills River Park Universal Play Space" Project

Nicole Sweat

- *The Mills River Parks Director presented their accessibility proposal that will include a handicap accessible path with sensory stations that segue from the parking lot to the existing playground. There is also a plan to integrate a story walk along the existing paths which will integrate the library with the community park. This is a proposal for a highly competitive North Carolina grant. 1/5 Grant Match. No change to existing playground, a focus on mobility and accessibility for all. Total cost \$314,110, \$62,822 would be the 1/5 local match.*

Treasurer's Report

Nicole Sweat

- *The most noteworthy element of the budget this month is that purchases for the STEAM Lab occurred this year rather than last summer, which affects this school year's budget. There are still more purchases for the lab that have yet to be fulfilled because of lead times.*
- *To discuss purchases with Ms. McVey at upcoming meeting, ex. BrainPop (is it still useful/beneficial for students?)*
- *Communication spending is the website & scheduling system for The Rock*
- *The current balance is \$24,179.01 and we will need to be prudent with our funds to carry through the year.*

Vice President's Report

Lauren Klocko

- *We have filled several positions: Amy McKinstry will take the Teacher Appreciation position, although ideally she would have someone else on her team to help. Betsy Casebolt has partnered with Kacie Tilley this year for the Volunteer Coordinator and will take over next year. Jessica Lucas will co-chair for President this year and next year. WELCOME!*
- *Open positions still include: two more spots on the Purchase Request Sub-Committee, two positions for next year's Spiritwear Team, one position for SIT (School Improvement Team), and two positions for the Fundraising Team.*

- *The Purchase Request Committee approved \$1289 for Ms. Fletcher's WIG incentives, flags for the Veterans assembly, and two subscription requests from teachers (Ms. Stachura's Drama Notebook subscription & Ms. Atwell computer resource)*
- *Another Santa Sighting Event will occur on 12/10. There will be a planning meeting for this Thursday, November 3rd at 1pm at the Academy (all welcome).*

Secretary's Report

Katherine Dare

Spiritwear

Autumn Morton & Natasha Sidwell

- *Spirit wear sales are going well because of sales from the Fall Festival.*

Volunteer Coordinator

Kacie Tilley & Betsy Casebolt

- *Not much to report here, there will be sign-ups for the Santa Sighting on 12/10.*
- *The Duty Free Lunch was a success. There is not another one scheduled yet because of school scheduling, although we offered. Feedback: seems to go pretty well for volunteers. Suggestions: offer to do lunch pickup for EC Teachers on those days & thank you for the lunch/breakfast for lunch ladies. Amanda will ask which day lunch ladies they want us to do breakfast or lunch for them.*

Dads Group

Brandon Tilley

- *10/27 Pumpkin Day*
- *11/5 Yard Clean-up Day*
- *Dads Opening Doors in tomorrow – 7 Dads signed up, possibly 1 more from meeting (Thank you!)*
- *Pumpkin Day is unloading pumpkins off the truck, time needs to be clarified. 7 Dads signed up as of meeting date, if no more sign up by Monday, VC will send out another request, but to the entire volunteer list.*
- *Yard Cleanup is an open-ended amount of participants, as there is a lot to do.*

School Store

Helen Parris

- *The store is now open Wednesdays and Fridays 7:30-8am.*
- *Smencils are not doing as well as expected, but squishy things are selling.*
- *Spent \$544, sold \$738 – open 5 times so far.*
- *Had to go up in price on a few things because of market prices.*

Fundraising Committee (The Rock & Fast Pass)

Katherine Dare & Emily Householder

- *Fall Fundraiser Update*
- *Spring Fundraiser Plan*
- *To date the fall fundraiser has \$20,826 with 374 of our 588 students registered. And although the goal was to reach \$40,000, this is a tremendous amount. In years past, a hefty portion of the raised money went to paying the fundraiser company (close to 50%) whereas this company takes a significantly smaller portion and it's much more transparent about its cost. We are learning how to run our own fundraiser and feel good about going forward with this company in future efforts. We are learning what works and what is missed and will take that into account in future fundraisers.*

- *We did not account for the history of Fall Fundraiser earnings v. Spring when setting our goals. In 2019 we raised \$17,000 and last year we raised \$18,000. Although our goal was not met, we are on track to earn more than we had in previous years.*
- *A Fundraising meeting will occur before December to start planning for the Spring fundraiser. Date/Time TBD.*

SPAC Meeting

Katherine Dare

- *Calendar Law and boosting security in county schools was discussed. By the end of the next school year, our school will have security cameras in main hallways and other open areas, accessible by the SRO.*

Staff Appreciation Committee

Amy McKinstry

- *Nothing yet*

New Business

Amanda Ledbetter

- *Teacher's Make-a-Wish Tree*
- *Business Sponsor search in January*
 - *We will not do a Make-a-Wish Tree but instead ask families for teacher supply donations at the Santa Sighting.*
 - *The book fair will be open at the same time as the Santa sighting.*
 - *The Fundraising Committee will hold a meeting to also discuss Business Sponsors for Spring. Please start coming up with companies to approach.*
 - *The first step for the playground improvement: the school needs a civil engineer to come out and assess the entire property. The PTO will write a letter to Falcon Families asking for help with this. The next step is to find a Landscape Architect who could help with the concept drawing. This is a complicated process and will take more fundraising and planning efforts.*
- *Amanda met with a school supply company. The company sells boxes of school supplies, company separates by grade and everything is name brand. We receive free boxes for the school. Based on our school's supply list. Teachers received t-shirts. Tentatively voted to go with this company as a benefit to parents and the school, but Amanda will find out the price and send an email to everyone for final approval.*

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting- In-person: Thursday, November 17th at 1pm at the Academy

Virtual: TBD

Special Workshop Meeting:

w/ Librarian: Ashley McVey regarding teacher subscriptions Friday, October 21st at 1:15pm

Santa Sighting Planning Meeting: Thursday, November 3rd at 1pm at the Academy

Meeting Minutes Approved By: _____