

Mills River Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization PTO Meeting Minutes

November 16th, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order/Attendance

Jessica Lucas

- Jessica Lucas, Tracy Klaes, Stacey Klepp, Beth Campbell, Katie Foley, Betsy Casebolt, Kacie Tilley, Amy McKinstry, Jennifer Stalling, Emory Trantham, Lauren Klocko, Katherine Dare

President's Welcome

Jessica Lucas

- Thanks to everyone. Thankful and amazing how much PTO gets done for our school.
- Tracy and Jessica went to the November Staff meeting to present the Professional Development reimbursement information.

Santa Sighting Coordination

- December 9th – Suggestion, something as simple as hot chocolate & candies. Lauren has a backdrop and there are crafts & other things in the cabinet.
- Christmas decorations are in Jessica's basement. The trees need to be painted and can be painted where they are now. To be coordinated with Jessica.

Treasurer's Report

Tracy Klaes

- Fall Fundraiser – 13% donations collected in school, the remainder was collected online
- Extra line in budget added for revenue for bike program sponsors
- School store has \$1,700 ready to spend for the 5th grade party
- Need more paper for the poster printer and Jessica found cheaper option, to be tried for quality
- Fundraiser line – \$12,000 budgeted for expenses that Katherine did not use in the fall (threats to use all \$12,000 for Spring Fundraiser expenses)
- Spiritwear – Over budget but we're selling well, especially certain items that needed to be reordered
- Staff Appreciation includes the shirts they received as presents at the beginning of the year – \$110
- School Store will go over because that's how it will need to be (it runs like a business, needs to spend money to make money) – in the future, the expense budget will now read revenue, less \$1,000/\$500 because that's what they want left in the budget (confusion re: \$1,000 v. \$500)
- Underbudget on communications – Lauren, may tickup each year
- Beautification – no more Card My Yard this year because we only use that for the beginning of the year

Gym Fan

- Purchased after last meeting, but it has not come out of our account yet.
- We're keeping the fan we purchased and it would cost \$1,000 to send it back (\$500 for shipping each way). It is scheduled to be installed over Christmas Break.

Vice President's Report

Lauren Klocko

- Nothing to report

Secretary's Report

Katherine Dare

- Handed out September & October minutes

Dads Group

Kevin Ensley

- Kevin didn't listen and already did all of the things that were supposed to happen for Beautification, so a day hasn't been scheduled since last meeting.

Fundraising Committee (The Rock & Fast Pass)

Campbell, Dare

- Fundraiser Planning Meeting – Agreed on November 29th, 9:00 @ HenDough

Social Events

- Are we still doing the Monday event @ Mills River Brewery? We'd like to but we'll discuss at a later time, decide & update calendar

Fast Pass Auction for 2nd semester – Jessica

- How are we going to execute?
 - o Tracy – Discussing with Larissa to give permission to use GiveButter.com for auction capabilities
 - o Lauren – We need to know if payments have cleared

Wrapping Paper Fundraiser shelved until next year, more time to execute – Jessica

- Jessica wants to hold this fundraiser next year, but hold off this year to give us more time to plan

Spirit Night Date in January – Jessica

- Chick-Fil-A on Spartanburg Highway @ Grace Lutheran's spirit night – they allow advertising now, were flexible, easy to work with, still have to have a table set up
- Dari'O – new place near East High. They sent email sent to us. We don't have to mention anything. Will schedule for next semester.

School Store

Amanda Ledbetter & Kacie Tilley

Could School Store/Spiritwear be sold at next meeting for possible Holiday gifting? Or another time to let parents shop?

- Kacie – Worried about how much we're leaving at the end of the year – \$500 v. \$1,000 – Thought the original intention was always \$500
- Tracy – Offer to push the school store around car rider line
- Kacie – Will discuss with Amanda re: school store around car rider line

School Improvement Team

Jessica Lucas

Update from Meeting

- Bookfair – December 4th – 8th – Nutcracker theme
- Vertical walkthrough with teachers, each spends time with the grade above & below
- NC Star indicators
- Title 1 budget was bigger than expected. School is hiring another tutor & buying another clear touch.

Staff Appreciation Committee

Jaquez, McKinstry & Rusert

December Staff Gift – Amy

- Need to set a date up with Mandi – 10:45 – 2:00 on the date (TBD by Ms. Fletcher)
- Ideas: coco bar & gift wrap (but it's very expensive per person), cookie cutters, other full blown coco bar & ask for \$5 gift cards from parents
- PTO would make the cookies – Tracy & others agree to make them if Amy wants
- Volunteer Coordinator – need 90 \$5 gift cards, turned in by December 11th & 10 people to do 24 cookies (homemade or bakery grade)
- PTO will buy the coco & cute things
- Attach gift cards to something cute – Jessica volunteers to make
- Amy will make final decisions after pricing and let everyone know

Spiritwear

Tracy Klaes

- "We're doing stuff, it's fine"
- Will possibly set up an order form to send home

Volunteer Coordinator

Betsy Casebolt

Bookfair sign-up almost filled up, but only one parent per time slot this year. Might be an issue if anyone cancels.

The Basket

- Thank you for all of the donations. We had enough to split our donations into 2 baskets. One huge basket and one regular. Our huge basket was the biggest. Superintendent Garret bought our biggest basket. To find out how much our baskets raised for families in need.

Leader In Me

Kacie Tilley

Last month was very successful. Next club day: Monday, November 20th. Still no requests for parent assistance.

Superintendent Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Katherine Dare

- The County is looking into ways to keep up with the increased # of vapes in schools. More and more are turned in or confiscated each month. Our district is better than others. Spending \$ on machines that detect vapes does not make sense because by the time the machines are installed, the vape manufacturers make vapes to get around those detectors.
- Calendar Committee was collecting feedback from different groups about this year's calendar. Teacher's version of SPAC was in favor of the early start & wanted to continue with the calendar as it is this year. SPAC was 100% in favor of the same.

New Business

- Playground – Kids have already voted on their top choices. We'll soon get the info from Ms. Wallace.

Sponsorship and Grant-Writing for Playground – Tracy

- Needs help calling sponsors from a list of 30+ companies.
- Katie Foley, Jennifer Stallings & Emory Trantham volunteer to help with grant writing
 - o Tracy will put together a list of 10 – 15 grants
 - o Lauren to transfer email addresses & Tracy to coordinate
- Katie – is there anything on a National Level? Tracy, yes, she will put together a list

Volunteer Retention: posting next meeting, continuing to have brochures at each meeting

- Betsy's suggestions: Emailing before a meeting, a calendar, send thank you notes, give the packet out more often – We don't want to create a closed off group & limit others from joining, we are not like those groups.
- Katie didn't get click vibes from the 1st meeting. An explanation during a meeting of the committees and roles would be helpful.
 - o Jessica is writing a document that explains everything & the acronyms
- Jessica – we do a lot of what she saw from the suggestions on PTO Today (a publication/email)
- We are conscious of volunteer burnout as well. We don't want to over ask and overuse.
- Katherine will add her personal email next to the Fundraiser Meeting information starting next semester. and will ask Mr. Auten to add the PTO meeting announcement to the digital sign like she did last year. Katherine either posts meeting info to Facebook or makes sure another person with access already has, but isn't into the other platforms as much.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 14th @ 1:00 p.m.

Workshop Meeting: Spring Fundraiser Meeting, Wednesday, November 29th, 9:00 a.m. @ HenDough