

Mills River Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting Minutes
February 16th, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order – Attendance: Amanda Ledbetter, Katherine Dare, Stacey Klepp, Beth Campbell, Kevin Ensley, Whitney Powell, Betsy Casebolt, Tracy Klaes, Jessica Lucas, Amy McKinstry, Nicole Sweat, Natasha Sidwell, Lauren Klocko Teacher Rep: Ms. Marks

President's Welcome

Amanda Ledbetter

Valentine Grams – Valentine Gram Volunteers were amazing!!! THANK YOU!

- We sold \$2900 – haven't gone through costs yet, but \$200 or less – \$290 donated to cover kids who did not receive grams otherwise, we only had to cover \$5 and parents donated remainder – So proud of our community for this!

Yard Sale

- Date: April 29th, Saturday after the 2nd book fair – Book Fair will be open during the sale
- Need a flyer, need them to go out, charge \$25 per table, people can call the school, can set up at 7:00 that morning, need to post on all the local yard sale website

School Supply - Gift Card to allocate and order forms available as early as May.

- \$200 gift card – would like to use ½ to give to the top fundraising teacher – April 15th school will give us the list by our requested date
- This will be a small fundraiser, but more a service for families to save \$ on school supplies
- Jessica – 1st thing we're giving to you (Welcome)

Treasurer's Report

Nicole Sweat

- As of Feb 14th – Income (some, not all included here): Fall Fundraiser Total Raised, \$23,550.50 - Holiday Events (including Valentine Grams – not all deposited as of the report date), \$2,397 - Fast Pass, \$2,176
- As of Feb 14th – Expenses (some, not all included here): School/Teacher Supplies & Special Requests, \$25,608.38 (\$9,90.38 over budget, but STEAM room purchases carried over from last year) - Agendas, \$2,239.56 - Computer Resources, \$5,514 - Communication (website), \$588.11 - Operational Expenses (Credit Card Fees), \$325.08
- Beginning Year Balance: \$53,272.41
- Total Revenue: \$35,217.36
- Total Expenses: \$40,449.08
- Current Balance: \$48,040.69

- Major expenses left for this year include: major fund for playground, shirt for all students/staff for Spring Fundraiser, Staff Appreciation Week, Physical Education Supplies/Field Day, Spring Fundraiser Prizes
- Remember: certain STEAM Room purchases (approved & fundraiser objective last year) over the summer were after the prior fiscal year & so our budget for this year shows those purchases – we did not spend that much over budget

Vice President's Report

Lauren Klocko

Kindergarten Rally – April 4th – are we interested in having a presence with Spirit Wear and an information booth?

- Reached out to FootRx to be cheerleaders to spirit people for the fun run
- Can we set up in the gym the night before for ? Probably not

Secretary's Report

Katherine Dare

- Emailed the minutes – Will do it again
- Continue to post special meeting notices on Facebook

Spiritwear

Autumn Morton & Natasha Sidwell

Getting ready to put last year's shirts on clearance

- Found all the old shirts, Falcon Strong – mostly small, will sell at the Kindergarten Rally at discount & then we'll hand the rest out as prizes at the Glow Run the next day
- Will sell at the Yard Sale also

Volunteer Coordinator

Kacie Tilley & Betsy Casebolt

Snack Cart – Grades 3/4/5 are doing fine stocking Snack Cart currently

Read Across America Volunteers 2/24 sign-up, we need 12 volunteers.

Fundraiser and Fun Run Volunteers

Staff Appreciation Week Donations and Volunteers

- 6 volunteers are filled for Read Across America, need 6 more to make caves – February 24th
- Will get with VC to create volunteer list for the Glow Run day & handing out prizes
- Will get with VC for Staff Appreciation Week for ALL the things – to be done at a later date

Dads Group

Brandon Tilley

Dads Group will open doors Friday, February 24th

School Store

Helen Parris

- Only open 1 day a week, Wednesdays
- We bought \$100 in smencils from the school store for Valentine Grams because we ran out, we sold that many

Fundraising Committee (The Rock & Fast Pass)

Katherine Dare & Emily Householder

- Special Meeting March 3rd – 9:00 @ HenDough
- \$30,000 Fundraising Goal – Agreed
 - Above and Beyond Goal – \$40,000
- T-Shirts
 - Next year we would love to have a contest where the kids design it
 - Need an art teacher to facilitate
 - Tracey is putting together the logos for the back of the t-shirts
 - Maybe send sponsorship to teachers/staff – by email
- Things We Need
 - Black lights – send email to teachers to ask for them – STEAM Rom has some
 - West – Ms. Cooper – Beth is going to ask
- Letter to Teachers
 - March 22nd – Staff Meeting – 3:45 – Katherine will go talk to teachers, maybe Jessica too
- School-Wide Incentives/Prizes – Group Approved up to \$6,000 in prizes
 - Bounce House during specials/recess – Cost?
 - What will Mr. Auten/Ms. Fletcher do?
- Send Notice/Invitation Out to Parents through Swift so they can take time from work if they want to come to the run
 - Amazon gift card to top teacher – yes
- Can someone post the rock to Facebook & send to Mandi for Peachjar?

SPAC Meeting

Katherine Dare

- Leader in Me – Club Days – We were told instead of clubs, teachers could do afterschool clubs instead – some clubs are happening at our school
 - o Other schools have club days like normal – we do not
- Science Wing – West will have a new science wing built by the time our kids get to high school
- Entrance to West – New entrance is in the planning stages, contractors have been picked

Staff Appreciation Committee

Amy McKinstry & Katie Rusert

Staff Appreciation Week is May 8th-12th, not the first week of May.

- What do the teachers want? Ms. Mark & Ms. Sidwell's input please! Hot Dog World Salads – Mexican is super popular – Poppy's Popcorn Bar (Ms. Marks' neighbor is Poppy's Popcorn person) – Breakfast ideas: yogurt bar we know went well, bagels went well last year, either one of those is good (Joey's on Wednesdays)
- Amanda has 3 things to raffle off for Teacher Appreciation Week
- Send letter to EVERYONE – this is how we appreciate EVERYONE during this week: SRO, nurse, counselor, social work, bus drivers, lunch ladies, etc.

Teacher Feedback on Lunches, Snack Cart, etc. and gifts on specific appreciation days

- Many teachers miss PTO provided lunches & a lot don't use the snack cart, but PTO was told to keep the snack cart & get rid of lunches & snacks at staff meetings – there is a huge disconnect between teachers & PTO, meals during schooltime is what teachers miss
- We need to have a good medium – PTO cannot staff meals & snack cart & duty free lunches & Teacher Appreciation Week plus all the different Appreciation Days throughout the year & staff meeting snacks – it's too much, over the top & doesn't focus our resources on students (our goal this year)
- Whitney says/thinks we are doing wonderful, other districts make teacher pay & others don't even have it – we are doing great here
- As far as input – PTO has done what we can do & what we can't do as much as we have in the past, we don't have the ability & staff like we did previously
- PTO told Ms. Fletcher we couldn't handle all the appreciation days & needed to scale back, we thought she was taking it on & since then she asked a teacher to take it on – That staff asked \$ for from teachers to do those special days. PTO had no idea. What do we do since it makes PTO look bad? Lauren & Amanda will ask to meet with Ms. Fletcher to talk about all the above

Fast Pass

- Coming Up – Need to send that out – March 31st will be drawing of Fast Pass

Parking Lot Lines

- Amanda found someone to paint the parking lot lines (she's been attempting to get this done for years). No Cost to Us – Huge Win!!!

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: March 23rd – 1:00 p.m. @ The Academy

Workshop Meeting: Friday, March 3rd – 9:00 @ Hendough – Spring Fundraiser Planning Meeting