

Mills River Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization
PTO Meeting Agenda
March 21st, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order/Attendance: Jessica Lucas, Lauren Klocko, Tracy Klaes, Stacey Klepp, Katherine Dare, Whitney Powell, Katie Foley, Jennifer Stalling, Kacie Tilley, Leah Pollock, Amy McKinstry, (phone)

President's Greeting Jessica Lucas

- Hi. Big round of applause for the fundraiser.
- Reminder to have a write up about your position(s) to Jessica by 4/2 – Jessica is creating a document that explains what we do as a PTO every year. In your role, what do you do? Also, what did we do this year & each year?
 - o Lauren –PTO website has a position & description list to get you started

Treasurer's Report Tracy Klaes

- Bikes are in and now we need storage: shipping container approximately \$3,000 plus outfitting
- Earned roughly \$35,000 for the fundraiser.
 - Sponsors funds for 2nd – 5th grade bikes have not been received yet.
 - We've finished holiday events for the year, but they were great.
 - The school store is slowing down but is doing well for the year.
 - Fast Pass has earned twice as much as the previous school year.
 - We have the playground equipment, but we have not paid for it yet. To be paid: \$31,249.91
 - Teacher requests: \$9,293.67
 - Purchase request committed recently approved Ms. McVey's request.
 - For planning purposes, next year, ink & poster budget should increase to \$1,200
 - Ms. Fletcher does not want shirts for Leader in Me
 - Storage unit coming for the bikes – \$3,000 purchase, estimated
 - o Katie possibly has 1 at her business and will find out. Katie & Tracy will talk about this after the meeting.
 - Fundraiser expenses – Katherine is not spending the \$12,000 allotted.

Vice President's Report Lauren Klocko

- Board Position opening up for next year: voting is in May
- Lauren is not running for VP next year. Lauren has class obligations that conflict.
 - We will be voting in May for the next year's PTO Board. Ballot – Write-In.
 - There are sensitive topics discussed within the Board that are taken to administration
 - Board consists of: President, VP, Treasurer 1, Treasurer 2, Secretary
 - Last meeting of the year the new board takes over
 - VP position specifically: Support President; Meeting Agenda (email position holders for their input, put agenda together, decide time needed); Welcome New Families; Written End-of-Year Report
 - If you're not interested in a Board position, there is a host of Committee positions
 - Email Lauren if you are interested in a position

Secretary's Report Katherine Dare

- Board approved prior month's minutes
- Lauren has asked that Katherine review SPAC topics from last month, will review those later in the meeting

Fundraising Committee (The Rock & Fast Pass)

Campbell, Dare

Spring Fundraiser Recap

- Bad –
 - o No one signed up for the daily incentive hand outs: Partially the regulars (Tracy, Kevin, Katherine) fault for showing up without signing up (Stacey always does), partially, no one else signed up, except a few.
 - o Credit card fee issue
 - Some people would rather not know how much % fees they're paying.
 - Would it be better if people didn't know that we have to pay the credit card fees?
 - Discussion: Katherine, the system allows us to choose the level of "Donor Credit" that is the fee we pay to the company for their service, but is unsure if the system allows it to completely be eliminated, it may. Lauren thinks we should get rid of it the credit card fees people can see when donating, could turn people away. Jessica thinks everyone knows there are credit card fees and it's naive to think there is no credit cards use fee or to put on a fundraiser. Tracy, the overwhelming percentage pay the "Donor Credit" and PTO received \$3,500+ in fees paid by donors. Donors also have the option to send donations directly to the school to avoid a credit card fee.
 - o Prizes were better with Boosterthon
- Good –
 - o Fun – Decorations cute – Kids love it
 - o More parents present – consider keeping it on a Friday for parent involvement
 - o Several said PTO should never go back to Boosterthon – PTO now keeps 96% of donations v. roughly 45% with Boosterthon – yes, Boosterthon does more on a daily basis to hype the kids up, but the outcome is not worth the loss in funds to our families & community

Jessica – Spirit Nights:

- Recap: Spirit Night @ Dario – \$475 earned, awesome turnout, many Mills River families. Dario was really welcoming & thankful to have MRS PTO. The group agrees they would like to do it again. Jessica agrees as well.
- Sweet Frog Spirit Night – They hold them on Wednesdays or Thursdays – The consensus is to schedule a Spirit Night in August
- Mills River Brewery – Yes, one will be scheduled.

Playground Committee

Tracy Klaes & Lauren Klocko

Rev8 for playground delivered, now for the installation: volunteer day during Spring Break

- Rev8 ordered & delivered.
- Sunday or Monday is the day of action – to be finalized.
- Ben Walker has a skid steer & will help on the day of action.
- Tracy will ask the high school (Livingston) about Boy Scouts.
- Ordering shipping container to hold the bikes. Katie not able to get the container at her work like suggested earlier in the meeting.
- Vice Principal Fletcher & Tracy had a meeting with Pisgah Sorba & her landscape architect. They had a campus walk through. They will create a nice/pretty rendering of the site. This could come at no cost to PTO because they know we're attempting to obtain grants – we'll find this out at a later date.
 - o We do NOT have to have a survey. He's creating a topo map, google maps of the land. Savings of \$8,000, plus another \$14,000 savings since PTO does not have to pay for the engineer either!!
- Jessica's ? – Can she put a thank you on social media & a link to the page – topo map? Yes, once obtained

Purchase Request Committee

Ensley, Klaes, Klepp, Klocko, Lucas, Tilley

Kindle request from McVey

- Approved – The school had ipads previously, when software expired the county took them back. Ms. McVey used them frequently.

Bike program accessories request from Starling – Approved

School Store

Amanda Ledbetter & Kacie Tilley

- Will be finished at the end of April. Winding down on sales, but close to their goal, only a few hundred dollars away. They will have flash sale at the middle to end of April.
- Everything has been ordered for school store fundraiser.
- Who will take over for next year's 5th grade class? TBD

SIT (School Improvement Team)

Jessica Lucas

- Many ?s & discussions about scheduling: Teacher discussion re: what's required & what's not. Grade levels need to develop schedules based on their test scores. Ex. Focus on more math v. more reading.
- Revisiting recognizing & honoring students: More of a ceremony for character & growth not just grades. The school plans to move away from just recognizing grades.
 - o Previously, the school would recognize grades but also each class would hand out awards based on character, improvement and behavior. Unsure why they stopped, but they were really nice.

Staff Appreciation Committee

Jaquez, McKinstry & Rusert

May 6th – 10th : Staff Appreciation Week – open to suggestions/recommendations

Detailed agenda to come in next few weeks

- \$2,496.69 left in budget for Teacher Appreciation – Last year spent \$2,200 - \$2,300
- Feedback from last year? Ideas?
 - o Idea: Raffle off 3 different baskets during the week for the teachers, everything they show up for they put their name in for: Basket ideas, 1) Date Night, wine & cheese, 2) Spring, BB Barns, 3) Family: Show up for stuff we're giving them (only issue if a grade has a field trip): \$50 per basket, donated baskets??
 - o Bundt Cakes or Crumble Cookies (\$4.50)? Leah will go tomorrow & ask if they will discount Bundt Cakes or whatever, they did not previously.
 - o Taco Fiesta: Always a huge hit! Amy, 80 was so much, 65 people will be much better & save on costs
 - o Chick-Fil-A: same or different?? Idea: Macaroni from Publix
 - o Breakfast option: Big variety, casseroles, breakfast dishes. Amy would like that completely taken care of by parents. Several like the idea of homemade.
 - o Admin is doing what? Which day? TBD
 - o Everyone please email Amy with ideas.
- Staff Appreciation Workshop Meeting: Wednesday, April 10th @ 9:00, HenDough

Spiritwear

Tracy Klaes

- Katie sold a bunch at the Kindergarten Rally, Tracy also
- Possibly sell at STEAM Night
- Should we sell at the Grand Event? There was some push back, not from Ms. McVey but from others. To ask Ms. McVey if she minds that we sell Spiritwear at the same time as the Grand Event & decide if we can staff Grand Event & Spiritwear.

March SPAC

- Not a regular meeting. Katherine participated in a strategic planning meeting. SPAC parents were guided through a process to discuss their priorities for the county over the next several years. SPAC was 1 of 9 groups who participated in this type of meeting throughout the week. The results will be available in a couple months & will guide the county in their goals.

Recap from last month's (February) SPAC meeting:

- Early start calendars adopted for next year school. Traditional calendars will start August 12th. Winston Salem-Forsyth now adopted this too. They're in the top 5 biggest schools and we also have the 2025-2026 calendar and would like to adopt for two years planning.
- Approved a fund to put air-conditioning in high school gyms throughout (Hendersonville already has it) and elementary schools that don't have fans will get them.
- Purchased vans for secondary school to provide transportation for kids to extracurricular activities in small groups, transport moms to their appointments, etc. Each middle school and high school have one and one for the innovative high school; 9 vans total.
- Free lunch: 44% increase in lunches served; 60-65% kids eating lunch; \$600-\$700 saved per kid, per year, a big impact for families, especially families with multiple kids
- Administration's budget request to the school board was for \$39,279,000
 - o Buncombe pays certified a 10.5% local supplement and 10.75% non-certified, so Superintendent Garrett requested a 1.5% increase to move our local supplement to 10.5%
 - o Requested a 1% coaching scale increase
 - o Charter school drain HCPS resources with little to no accountability & receive \$2,500 per kid without asking.
 - o Each kid gets \$12,000-\$13,000 a year in funds locally that is \$2,500. However, with this budget request, local funding would be \$2,700.

Volunteer Coordinator

Betsy Casebolt

- Shamrockin Fun Run: As the volunteer coordinator, I think it would be beneficial for the PTO if all those who volunteer the day of the Fun Run get an event t-shirt. It would build community and feel more inclusive. After the sign up goes out, they could be contacted for sizes. Also, another idea is to possibly sell the event t-shirts, as I had a number of people inquire to buy.
 - o Yes – we can give people shirts – Need to set up a system to have the shirts ordered beforehand.
- Spring Book Fair – Set up is Friday April 5th (12 Volunteers) & the fair will continue the following wk. Check out the Sign Up Sheet to help out!

Leader In Me

Kacie Tilley

Leader In Me shirts?

- Ms. Fletcher said they do not need shirts
- Administration identified people they wanted to replace Kacie as the Leader in Me PTO representative.
- PTO members expressed concern that Leader in Me "Showcase" on May 3rd will not be open to all parents. The plan is that it will be open to only club sponsors.
- Field Days – April 29th – K-2nd; April 30th – 3rd-5th; Makeups May 1st, May 2nd, May 3rd

New Business

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 18th @ 1:00 p.m., The Academy

Workshop Meeting: Staff Appreciation Workshop Meeting – Wednesday, April 10th @ 9:00, HenDough