

Mills River Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting Minutes
August 17th, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order/Attendance

- Lauren Klocko, Ashley Walker, Beth Fulmer, Allie Brashear, Carley Dacey, Katy Russo, Jessica Lucas, Katherine Dare, Judy Gilliland, Betsy Casebolt, Leah Pollock, Amy McKinstry, Kacie Tilley, Tracy Klaes, Whitney Powell, Kevin Ensley, Beth Jacquez, Amanda Ledbetter, Stacey Klepp, Beth Campbell, Megan Reilly, Charity McDaris, Katie Rangnow
- Lauren introduced herself and welcomed everyone, this is the best/biggest turnout we've ever had at our first meeting of the school year!!

President's Welcome

Jessica Lucas

- Jessica introduced herself as the new PTO president and thanked everyone (old and new) for attending the meeting

Treasurer's Report

Tracy Klaes

- Tracy provided copies of the budget and discussed the need to clarify PE supplies (copy of PTO Budget & Balance as of 8/17/23 attached)

Vice President's Report

Lauren Klocko

- Lauren discussed Mr. Auten's goals for this school year which include building a sense of community, connecting people and increasing parent involvement. Our biggest impact in assisting him to meet these goals will be to include Spanish translations on our fliers that are sent out to build community with Spanish speaking families.
- Lauren also shared that a playground letter is in the works to be sent out to families soon for updates regarding the previous fundraiser and where that money has been allocated; currently waiting on approval from administrative staff prior to sending out.
- Lauren provided a printed out calendar with important PTO dates for the year (also to be included as an attachment to the minutes).
- Lauren asked the group for input on allocating some of our budget towards continuing education/professional development for the teachers and staff, the group approved. The purchase request committee will further discuss details and how these funds will be divided up. Additional teacher requests were shared such as bikes for Coach Starling and a kiln/art supplies for the new art teacher; purchase request committee to further review.

Secretary's Report

Katherine Dare

- Katherine reported that last month's meeting minutes were sent out to the prior existing email list; these minutes will be sent to the updated email addresses collected at the beginning of this school year. Those who don't receive an email should contact the PTO to ensure their email is included in the mailing list.

Dads Group

Kevin Ensley

- Kevin shared that the dad's group will continue to open doors for the rest of August. Many compliments given to Kevin in how smoothly the car rider line has gone the first week of school.

Fundraising Committee (The Rock & Fast Pass)

Dare, Campbell, Householder, Kehres

- Lauren shared that there is an open position on the fundraising committee to handle paint the rock; Carley Dacey is interested in the position and will follow up to determine if this is a good fit.
- Fast Pass drawing will be next Friday, volunteers will be needed next week to walk the car rider line; Stacey Klepp to help Wed, Thurs, Fri with Jessica Lucas on Wed, Beth Campbell on Thurs and Ashley Walker on Friday. A spot will be auctioned off prior to the end of the year for credit card funds to process, the logistics of this will need to be discussed further. The group consensus was the spot would be for the entire second semester rather than just 3rd quarter.
- The use of gift certificates that were donated to PTO were discussed and it was decided to hold onto the one from Taco Fiesta as an incentive for volunteers and the one from Osega would be given to Ms. Fletcher for her to award a staff member with a Parents Night Out.
- Katherine shared that a fundraising meeting needs to be planned; will be Wed, Sept 6 at 9am at HenDough. Jessica Lucas to look into having spirit nights for fundraisers this year.

School Store

Amanda Ledbetter & Kacie Tilley

- Amanda shared that the school store will open September 6th and be open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30-8 a.m. She shared with newcomers how/why the store is run and where the proceeds go (5th grade graduation party). The store made \$92 when it opened for Meet the Teacher.

Staff Appreciation Committee

Jaquez, McKinstry & Rusert

- Amy shared that the Board voted to slightly increased this year's budget for Teacher Appreciation and she plans to use it for staff treats for every 9 weeks; would like to keep it about \$1/staff member. Ideas discussed for the end of the first quarter were apple cider donuts and cider and everyone liked this idea. Amy is open to other ideas for the remainder of the year! Amy will follow up with Ms. Fletcher on where to place items for staff now that the red hall workroom is a classroom.

Spiritwear

Lindsey Kehres

- Lindsey was not at the meeting but shared via email that she is currently getting quotes from different printers; Tracy has designed a logo if a new one needs to be used.

Volunteer Coordinator

Betsy Casebolt

- Betsy is currently working on adding new emails into the mailing list. She asked the group for input on if we want to do a meet and greet social to meet new/returning families; group liked this idea and a date was set for the morning of Wed., September 6 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Betsy will follow up on where we can meet and send out a sign up for people to bring items.
- It was briefly discussed to form a Landscaping/Grounds Committee to maintain entrance pots and the property; this has traditionally been run by the Dads Group and may continue to fall under that category, but the question was raised if we need/want to set aside additional monies for beautification; no consensus at this time. She shared that a volunteer opportunity will be happening soon (possibly sometime in September) to mulch the playground. Additional information will come out closer to when equipment is installed.

- Teacher supplies are different this year, as some supply lists were edited by the county office. Depending on teacher needs/wish lists may need to request supplies from families. Betsy to follow up with Mr. Auten re: specific needs & what (if anything) will be supplied by the county. Katherine shared that Mr. Garrett said the county is able to supply items at less cost & may be able to meet these needs for family at the beginning of school years.
- Snack cart will be returning this year & will again be supplied by families; it was decided that Betsy will send out monthly email requests for 2 grade levels to provide snacks for that month.
- Lastly, in an effort to assist Mr. Auten's vision in bringing our community together, we will be searching for Spanish-speaking Liaison(s) to volunteer their time at events. Beth Jaquez reported her daughter may be able to help, and an email requesting additional Spanish speaking volunteers will be sent out.

Leader In Me

Kacie Tilley

- Kacie shared a little about Mills River being a LIM school and that the goal is to bring back clubs to Mills River this year. As of now the teachers are waiting for input from students on which clubs they would like to participate in and then form clubs to begin in October. They will occur monthly, from October-April (except for December) and a showcase will happen in April. Any parents who are interested in helping to run a club should contact Kacie Tilley for additional information. Clubs will be 1 ½ hours long, 1 Friday a month.

School Improvement Team Meeting

Beth Jaquez

- Nothing to report as a meeting has not taken place yet this year

Superintendent Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Katherine Dare

- Nothing to report as a meeting has not taken place yet this year

New Business

Efforts to raise \$ for a fan in the gym-Beth Campbell shared that she has reached out to the county office for information regarding installing a fan. This is something the PTO is interested in purchasing for the school, but need more information on process and pricing for one to be installed. A question was raised if we could supply our own fan (a parent has a contact for lower pricing) or if the entire process needs to be overseen by the county; Beth to follow up with Mr. Auten and the county in regard to this process.

Lauren spoke about PTO's new plan to meet the last Monday of each month at Mills River Brewery at 6 p.m. to socialize and have meeting minutes available for anyone to get or discuss with members present. Betsy to make a flier to post on social media for this.

PTO will host 2 duty free lunches this year, tentatively, Sept 5th and Jan 26th. We will also provide a food run for the staff who are unable to participate in the duty free lunch (cafeteria staff, EC teachers, etc). A sign up will come out soon for volunteers to run the lunch.

Santa Sighting will take place Dec 9th; Jessica would like PTO to provide some kind of community gathering and will coordinate this effort.

Need to determine pumpkin day date; Kevin to follow up with this.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: September 21th 1:00 @ The Academy (up the hill from the school)

Workshop Meeting: Fundraiser Planning Meeting: Wednesday, September 6th, 9:00 @ HenDough