

Meeting Minutes

Kromrey PTO

Date: February 16th, 2021

Location: Zoom

Meeting Called to Order by: Danielle Boorstein

Time: 9:30am

Attendance: number of attendees: 3

Members present: Danielle Boorstein, Carol Mottram, Samantha Garlock

Members absent:, Melissa Dale, Cristina Carvajal

President Danielle Boorstein began our meeting with the Land Acknowledgement. The reason for doing this is to inspire ourselves and others to take action to support all racial, religious, and identity groups. This is a starting point for our PTO to publicly state that we realize that there is work to be done, and we are committed to helping all students in our schools & community.

I want to begin by acknowledging that we are on ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. We recognize the community, their elders both past & present, as well as future generations.

In an 1832 treaty, the Ho-Chunk were forced to cede this territory.

Decades of ethnic cleansing followed when both the federal and state government repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought to forcibly remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin.

This history of colonization informs our shared future of collaboration and innovation.

This acknowledgment reaffirms our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships among members of our community who are of different races, religions, ethnicities & gender identities.

Approval of Minutes

Danielle approved the meeting minutes from our 1/19/21 meeting.

Board Member Reports

President: Danielle Boorstein

- Banner:
 - PTO has purchased a banner to welcome the students back to school. It will cost \$50.00. Banner will be displayed at the school entrance on the first day back to school post virtual learning.
- Teacher Survey:
 - Thirteen teachers filled out the teacher survey.
 - Results of survey are accessible via a link in the PTO agenda.
- Family Survey:
 - Eight families filled out the family surveys.
 - Results of survey are accessible via a link in the PTO agenda.
- Filling Board Positions:
 - One person has expressed interest in the Events Committee, one person has expressed interest in the Communications Committee, and three people have expressed interest in the Sunshine Fund.
 - We will review the PTO board position applications in March, and will vote on members for each position at that time. Will do a voice vote, unless we have more than one person interested in a particular position.

Treasurer: Sam Garlock

- Updates:
 - No deposits recently.
 - Waiting for a deposit from Custom Ink.
- Expenses:
 - Snack payments were made in October and November.
- Funding Request:
 - Band Director, Darlayne Coughlin, filled out a form requesting funds for \$454.00 to cover the Wisconsin School of Music Association's Fees (Solo Ensemble organization and other events).
- Outstanding Expenses:
 - 8th Grade Celebration
 - August Kick Off Dinner
 - Staff Appreciation

Communications Committee: no committee lead at present (Report from Danielle Boorstein)

- Newsletter update:

- People are opening the Newsletters, which is a good sign of interest in these letters.
- “3 Important Things” Emails:
 - Will do this for the month of February highlighting the local restaurants, and encouraging that Kromrey families support local restaurants during the pandemic.

Events Committee: Cristina Carvajal not present (Report from Danielle Boorstein)

- Virtual Coffee Chat:
 - Great opportunity to meet the bilingual community.
 - English and Spanish Virtual Coffee Chats were held at the end of January. There were approximately 20 people at the English version, and only 1 person signed up for the Spanish version. This person did not attend, so there were no attendees at the Spanish version.
 - Christina spoke with the bilingual resource teachers and they were able to brainstorm ways to better engage the Spanish speaking community in future sessions.
- Staff Appreciation Coffee Event:
 - Lounge was closed, so they were unable to do an event last week for the teachers.
- Newsletters:
 - Many people are opening them and reading the content.

Sunshine Fund: Melissa Dale not present (Report from Danielle Boorstein)

- Review of the Sunshine Fund policies and procedures:
 - Stated purpose of the Sunshine Fund (provided via email statement from Melissa Dale) is “to administer to families during times of hardship. The sunshine fund was started by Penny Hendrickson and myself at Northside Elementary and has since been developed at Kromrey Middle School. Items to provide include clothing, snacks, and school supplies for students. Providing these items for the students relieves the financial burden from the teachers and family members”.
- Gift cards for grieving families:
 - Gift cards would be a wonderful gesture for families who are grieving, however, discussion ensued regarding whether this covers “basic needs”.
 - Board sent flowers and a sympathy card to a grieving family a few years ago and this started the discussion of whether we use PTO funds for grieving families.
 - Discussion regarding the idea that a card and flowers might be a more appropriate gift for a grieving family, rather than a gift card.
 - Plan is to develop a clear response for the role of the Sunshine Fund in the event that a Kromrey student dies or a family member of a Kromrey student dies.

Next meeting is on March 16th, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:00

Minutes Compiled by: Carol Mottram, Secretary