Parker PTO Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

Present: Kate Grant, Rochelle Rubino, Ally Bosley, Diane F, Aimee Hoffman, Kerin Bakst, Rosanne Guerriero, Lori Barcikowski, Albana Rami
Via Zoom: Jennifer Ray, Lauren Lynch, Soumen Das, Kate McLeod, Pata Das, Lindsey McCarthy, Denise Ewald, Ashley Lyons, Kristen Granara, Brenna Westover, Shaneen Durso, Karen Murphy, Meredith
Students: Samantha Poen, London Stith-Nichols, Zachary M, Brendan Martin
Welcome: Kate G

- ☐ Introduce Executive Board and Committee Chairs
    - ☐ Intro to the Board and a number of committee chairs and volunteers have already indicated availability to help
- ☐ June meeting minutes were reviewed and approved

Budget Report: Ally B

- Between 55-60 families given
- Over $5,000 taken in
- Spending
    - staff luncheon
    - Friday Night back to school
    - school agendas

Principal Review: Rochelle R

Great start
Successful Family Fun Night
New way to connect - coffee and connections via Zoom
vary times, this month's will be a way to meet Dr Story and going over Parker Core Values
how do we act on those within and outside of school - work as a community to reinforce the concepts with families - particularly around social media and the internet
Each month different theme with guests
Form to take home a charger
Activities fair - anyone who runs after school activity can come and talk to students about their activities
Lots of different ways to get involved
7th grade - Nature's classroom
8th grade field trip - create kindness kits for Pine Street in and go for a cruise/scavenger hunt

Enrichment: Aimee H

- ☐ Preliminary plans for year
    - ☐ Ball in the House - reached out to see if they are available, no word yet

- [ ] Chris Pulos (sic) - athlete who comes in and does amazing bicycle stunts, works on character education, anti-bullying and youth leadership
- [ ] Veronica cofounder and director , cancer survivor, lost her daughter; incorporates into her performance as a Latin dancer, performer
- [ ] John Haligan (sic), the Ryan Story presentation: lost his son to suicide, talks about how to prevent and support
- [ ] Working to get price points and open to ideas or suggestions on who people would like to see
    - [ ] Discussion on different levels of appropriateness of different topics and how does the PTO decide on what comes in versus what does not
    - [ ] Cost effectiveness of having vendors for specific grades versus all grades
    - [ ] Themes: core values, polling teachers and Mrs Rubino
- [ ] Able to bring back Challenge Day for 8th graders via grant (not PTO sponsored)
    - [ ] Full day experience where they meet in small groups, learn about who they are, identities, team building and fun. Powerful experience.
    - [ ] May need parental volunteers; will know more as we get closer. Happens in December

School Supplies: Denise E

- [ ] Share numbers for last years
- [ ] Every box is $7 box, looking for a commitment at this point; start talking to the teams January and February, submit lists by April and then pre-order supplies
- [ ] A few years back did some research to see if there was any other company that was less expensive/brought in more money but did not find anything
    - [ ] One piece of negative feedback was the company blasted out emails to families; so rep has been told not to do that

Fundraising: Kate G

- [ ] Dues campaign/new procedures update, new way of collecting donations; found a vendor called Give Butter; can give any way that works for families
    - [ ] 5 checks, all others given through Give Butter
    - [ ] Anyone who donates through the online site will get an email for tax purposes
    - [ ] In order to be more friendly to the environment, less paper and more electronic forms
- [ ] Restaurant nights - Kate McLoed
    - [ ] Talk to Fat Larry's - could do a dine out on 9/29 from 12:30-4:30; 20%
    - [ ] Paperwork in for Mandarin, just waiting to hear back
- [ ] Charleston Wrap - 10/16 - 12/4/23
    - [ ] Passive fundraiser; online gifts/holiday site - homegoods, towels, wrapping paper, email goes out to let parents know, officially launch in October
- [ ] Calareso's - October

- [ ] Not doing the fundraisers with middle school or high schools, elementary only
- [ ] Budgeted for a good amount of money for that but can reallocate for that; should be fine based on money that comes in

Hospitality: Kate G

- [ ] Update on staff luncheon
  - [ ] Day before first day; staff very appreciative
- [ ] Update on Fall Family Fun Night
  - [ ] Free event
  - [ ] Well attended
  - [ ] New last year in this format
- [ ] School supplies in office
  - [ ] PTO purchases school supplies for students who may not otherwise have them; Mrs Finnegan has a filing cabinet for the supplies and gave Kate a list of what was running low and then Mrs F puts together kits
  - [ ] Keep supplies maintained throughout the year
- [ ] Fall staff room restock, lobby decorating
  - [ ] Sign up genius to families to look to get donations to stock the staff room
  - [ ] Did that for the first time last year
  - [ ] Feedback has been good from families who want to contribute or help but cannot come to Parker for other events
  - [ ] Decorate the lobby for fall; PTO has 3 seasons of decorations: fall, winter theme, spring
- [ ] PTO volunteers
  - [ ] Thank you to all the families who have signed up to help out this year
  - [ ] Link will go out again via email for more volunteers for specific jobs, as well as for on call volunteers

Final Remarks

Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting. Please reach out via email, parkerpres@gmail.com for questions.
On the Parker Middle School website there is a PTO tab and Kate will keep the dates for meetings updated there. Agendas and minutes are also available there.
Mrs Rubino is looking for parents to serve on the school council to work on the improvement plan. First school council meeting will be in October before the PTO meeting. Meetings will be once a month before PTO meetings. Some teachers will be on it, as well as two students.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023