

**Kyle General Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 5, 2023**  
6:00 PM TPS Library and via Zoom

**Attendees:**

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome** - Attendee introductions
- 2. Principal's Update** - Star assessments are starting. If students score below 18 percentile parents will receive a call from teachers requesting a conference. Grades K-2 have scheduled conferences coming up anyways. Lots in place to help students that need extra support. U.S. News & World Report ranked TPS the top middle school in the state!
- 3. Administrative Update**
  - a. PTA Membership Drive - Members get two votes per household and members do not need to be parents. Digital votes can be cast as well. Expectations for membership were briefly discussed. There is no required time commitment, just do what you can and/or wish to contribute, even if it's just an opinion.
  - b. Facebook group questions and Code of Conduct - updating on PTA page
  - c. PTA email and Google Drive - briefly shared history of recent consideration to becoming a PTO but several unanticipated hoops to jump through. Decision was made to remain as a PTA and working to consolidate all into the PTA account.
- 4. Guest Reports**
  - a. Jessie Trowbridge - TPS Library- Until 2010, librarians were on staff at TPS. Since it has been parent volunteers. Last year, \$500 PTA gave the library makeover a head start. Jessie pulled books that were inappropriate. Received approx. \$1k from PTA cultural grant for updating book collection, particularly books related to states, graphic novels, indigenous people, health and development, plus library supplies like book ends. Two scholastic events also help but limited by what's available in the scholastic collection. Middle school has no dedicated library time but has library club, where they help w/ library projects. Library is open every morning 8-8:30 for browsing. Jessie will share slides and we will link in newsletter. Nicole from Princeton library is also helping with all of this. Non-fiction (biography) still needs updating to show more current heroes, wider range of diverse public figures, etc. Picture book and leveled readers need updating and to plug holes in series that are missing titles. Requesting \$200 from the PTA to get us through until scholastic book fair, when earned credits will allow us to purchase additional books. Jessie will share her book wishlist with the PTA to review. Currently the library period is run by the specials teachers but there's always a need for more volunteers to help it run smoothly. Commitment is 45

minute time blocks to help shelve, read, help find, etc. Suggestion was made to have some sort of library committee to help make decisions about what books to get rid of and what new books to purchase so there is more transparency and involvement to ensure book collection is representative of all views, etc. All in favor of some version of this for TSP.

- b. Dot Odgren - TPS Pollinator Garden - looking for another spot for the pollinator garden w/ more sun. Found a good spot near old playground area and selectboard approved equipment removal. Due to flooding they are backed up so timeline will be sometime in the spring for this. Seeking feedback from PTA about potential plans and welcome any/all involvement and help.
- c. Elaine Santello - Bangrazi Courtyard - took over grant from former art teacher. Typically plan a fall and spring workday to clean up and maintain the space but may need a summer day too. Applied for Princeton Cultural grant for native plants in the spring. Worked with art teacher/students to make kindness rocks and bird sculptures for the courtyard. Would love more parent/student involvement (PTA committee?) K and 3 classrooms that face the area help with planter boxes. The next cleanup is 10/14 - all are welcome. Middleschool kids help with cleanup and K does competitive weeding competitions to help out but the overgrown plants are too mature at this point for them to assist with. Will also be scheduling an Earth Day cleanup. Suggestion was made for afterschool kids gardening club. Dot offered her help with this. Way to offer ½ day activity for kids to help out with this?

## **5. Funding Requests and Allocations**

- a. Jenn Dolat (board approved)
  - i. \$126.25 - Phonics curriculum book and poster set
- b. Elaine Santello (board approved)
  - i. \$100 - landscaping fabric and bulbs for courtyard cleanup
- c. Megan Foley (all voted in favor of funding)
  - i. \$30 - 3 paperback copies of the graphic novel form of "The Giver"
- d. TPS Library (all voted in favor of funding)
  - i. \$200 for new books, pending that a list is shared with the board ahead of purchase for discussion and questions if necessary
  - ii. PTA Board will consider setting aside a standard library amount so process and expectations are clear. All in favor.
- e. Motion to set aside an amount not to exceed \$6000 to begin purchasing playground and recess upgrade items. Gaga pit was priced out at \$4k including shipping. Some concerns about what grades would be eligible to use the gaga pit, injury and supervision, etc. Need more info in order to put to vote. Will ask for more teacher feedback and report back before moving forward with anything. Larger structural changes need to go through the town. Color coded freccess equipment and supplies for map repainting, etc. all good to proceed with.

Question was asked about the TSP sign in front of school. Ace to follow up to see if this is the town's responsibility.

## **6. Operating Expenses**

- a. Swank movie licensing (vote) - all in favor of sharing cost with parks and rec to host a community movie night around the holidays with cocoa etc. .
  - i. 1 year (12 months) = \$550
  - ii. 2 year (24 months) = \$980 (5% Savings)
  - iii. 3 year (36 months) = \$1393 (10% Savings)

## **7. Finished Initiatives Reporting**

- a. Boosterthon - \$19k net, still some funding pending w/ potential corporate matching coming through
- b. Shop Local - \$10,500 raised from 22 local businesses, tote bags etc. will be going home with each TPS family in the next couple of weeks. Possibly have a joint event with Thirsty Lab to thank them for their platinum support! Will be posting individual TY to each sponsor on Facebook late October

## **8. New Initiatives Reporting**

- a. Spirit Wear
- b. Poinsettia Sale - kick off! Working with Hubbard's Farm this year. Can pick up at the farm stand. More details to come.
- c. Fall Mini-Grant cycle - open next Friday
- d. Holiday Shop - 12/4 - looking for crafters and volunteers. Purchasing is about halfway complete.

## **9. Budget Update** - did not specifically address due to time limitations and previously touched on major budget items above

## **10. Membership volunteer opportunities**

- a. Committees and specific positions
- b. Holiday Shop

## **11. Events and Programming**

- a. Veteran's Day
  - i. Timing and logistics? Presentation to different grades in lunchroom? Working with local veteran on this possibility.
- b. Len Cabral (membership approved via digital vote) - 2/9 Friday before the bookfair. Has come to TPS in the past and was very well received. PTA is applying for cultural grant to cover cost of this but voted to fund w/ existing budget regardless.
- c. Author visits
  - i. Andrew Hackett

- d. PTO Today Virtual Family Tech Talk
- e. Whalemobile
- f. Sheryl Faye historical women performances
  - i. Survey staff to see which, if any, would connect to curriculum
- g. Theater Works productions
  - i. Need a volunteer to see what shows are available, dates, cost
- h. Braveheart's Reading Program
- i. World Kindness Day

## **12. Fundraising**

- a. Boosterthon for next year - discussion and vote
- b. Spring fundraiser ideas
- c. Trivia or Musical Bingo
- d. Croc jibbits sale
- e. Minted greeting card promo
- f. GrantStation.com, PTA.org grants and awards, and Aldi Community Grants

## **13. Community Events**

- a. Movie Nights (can also be fundraisers)
- b. Worcester Railers night (coordinate with Scouts?)
- c. Worcester Bravehearts night (chorus sing again?)
- d. WooSox night (coordinate with P&R)
- e. Art Nights
- f. Parent/Adult outings

## **14. Open Discussion**

## **15. Adjourn**