

April 3, 2025
PTO General Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Julie, Chelsea, Denise, Candace Garrett, Kath, Carolyn, Denise, Elisa, Kim Shepherd, Erin Coleman, Lisa

- Treasurer Update - current balance is \$17,986.91 , \$50 outstanding (1 check)
- \$ 17,936.91 available. (\$50 outstanding was a teacher donation)

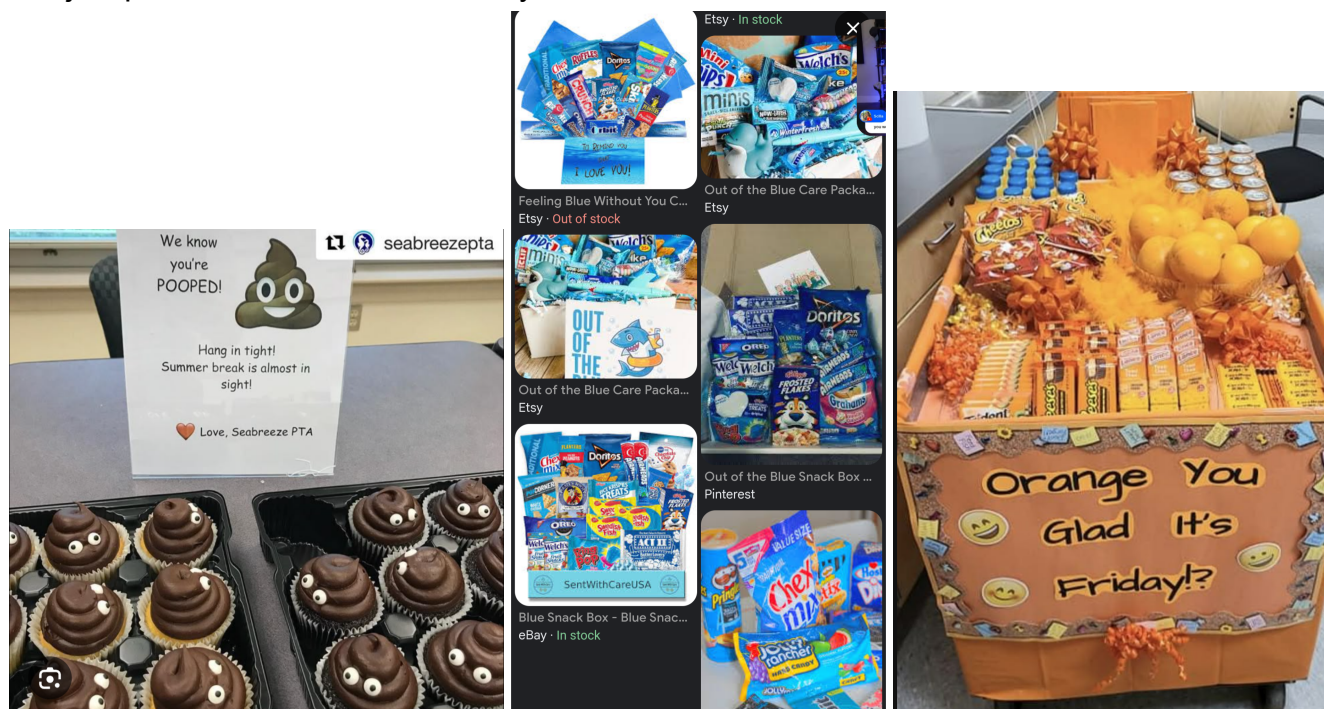
Old Business

- Restaurant Night Fundraisers:
 - Chipotle : March 11 - earned \$185.89
 - Red Robin : April 23 - Kids eat free night, pretty good turnout last year. Will need to be posted to social media next week (around the 8th or 9th). Flyers home the 14th. It would be best to share out Monday before since kids are losing things or not bringing them home in a timely manner. (in teachers inboxes on the 17th).
 - Chelsea will get the emails ready and send to Elisa.
- Looking into new fundraisers restaurants - Options are someburros, slim chickens, cafe rio, etc.
- Carnival Wrap Up
 - Total Spent: around \$6,800
 - Total Earned: around \$7,500
 - Feedback from Form:
 - The guy that was on the mic calling the raffles, some of his comments were uncalled for, such as the raffle off the reading bag, he said "said no one ever" about being excited to get the reading basket, like 1, we're at a school, 2 we should be encouraging kids to read, 3, that's my kids classroom basket and he dissed the basket many parents paid and put together, i can't imagine what our teachers who put it together thought of the comment.... that's one comment that stuck on my mind
 - We love coming and bringing the family! I think next year we should add an option for family members/friends or offer packages for tickets, games and raffles.
 - Have both face painters be able to design equally, when using Venmo have option to split tickets as not everyone has it and uses a friends/family members (this made all raffle tickets the same #), more lighting, put tarps by inflatables as there are lots of stickers on grass
 - Pie a teacher >> cost tickets to pie a teacher or staff, photo booth pay tickets not cash, something geared or showcasing mandarin program/department
 - Principal (or faculty) dunking game and pony rides
 - A dunk tank for the principal- will get even more kids there. I think asking the kids what they're favorite part of the carnivals are- and making sure we have that type of stuff. But it was great! There is always room for improvement, but it was great! We need more lighting, so maybe even moving the bounce houses closer- there was too much light at the DJ stand. So work on lighting.
 - maybe food that is more kid friendly like plain hot dogs/burgers
- Ideas for next year:
 - Trackless train (We ended up with a \$250 loss on this for this year)
 - Tarps (see if we can get donations)
 - Figure out lighting under ramada (camping lights? Cost \$15-\$40 per pole, variety of shops)
 - Number raffle baskets for easier pick up; would also be nice to move the baskets over near the DJ to prevent chaos.

- Solar lights can be set up all day and don't need to be plugged in.
 - Reposition the DJ so it's facing the crowd and away from the ramada.
 - People who volunteered were stuck where they were the entire time. If we have less games, we could rotate volunteers or make it easier to give them a break.
 - Could we do teacher sign ups in the workroom? Might be easier for the teachers instead of filling out the online form.
 - Maybe offer a perk for volunteers - if you sign up then you can get a free wristband for their child.
 - Consider investing and running games ourselves instead of getting the games from the vendor. We already have some game stuff in the portable, Chelsea and Carolyn can take a peek at what we have tomorrow.
- Bingo Night - 4/25 : Free admission + 1 BINGO book for all (typically 10 games) - this gets around the gambling concern.
- Glow in the dark bingo? Would need black lights could use our new lights, sell glow sticks; we can look for additional things like glow in the dark pens, glasses, balls, etc. (dollar store is a good place to look)
 - Chelsea is going to work on flyers and then send to Elisa
 - Other themes?
 - Different games - diagonal, 4 corners, X, blackout?
 - Need to check balls, get bingo cage, we might already have a bunch of bingo cards. Elisa said that there might be some additional bingo supplies in the back; she will look into this.
 - Sell dobbers, maybe neon color (\$2/ea), concessions (\$1-3), VIP seating (includes Table cloth, candy, and VIP sign- seats 6-8 people per table (price?). We can use the lunch tables where everyone is facing forward or use the long ones where people can sit across.
 - Need Prizes (reach out to local businesses for donations- Red Robin? Gift card prizes (\$25?); what about prizes for the kids that are non-monetary (such as doing the announcements, special lunch, etc.). This might take away from Gecko gold, but we could look at things like getting to call out the last round, pulling balls, etc. - would also motivate families to stay the same night.
 - Las Brisas PTSA also sold raffle tickets for baskets, might be hard since we just asked for raffle donations. With what we have we could make a random az sports basket, anything else? Another summer? Skip the raffle aspect?
 - The board will hammer out final details in group chat.
 - We could also consider a VIP bag (such as including a dobber, snack, glow stick, etc.); Maybe offer Reserved on the first few tables.
- Dave & Busters: Set to start Monday, May 5th; will be open for two weeks.
- Supporters purchase Dave & Buster's Power Cards for \$20. We get \$10 for every card sold. They come loaded with 100 chips for game play and are redeemable at any location nationwide. Power Cards don't expire and the standard activation fee is waived! 50% of the proceeds support your cause.
 - Once purchased through our link: <https://www.groupraise.com/oc/56202> they will receive a confirmation email with a link to access their redemption codes. They click "Redeem Your Power Cards" and they will be able to see all cards associated with their purchase. They can redeem their cards at any participating location. A D&B team member will give the actual card at this time.

New Business

- 2025/26 Board Nominations : <https://forms.gle/nw5AqMcLL1yKWHJdA>
 - **Pres:** *Chelsea*
 - **VP:** *Denise, Lisa*
 - **Treasurer:** *Carolyn*
 - **Secretary:** *Julie*
 - **VP of Tech:** *Denise, Taylor*
 - **Co-Chairs of Events:** *Kathy, Kim (Kathy is declining her nomination at this time)*
 - **Co-Chair of Fundraising:** *Lisa, Lauren*
 - Additional nominations can occur via form. Official voting will occur in the May meeting.
- Teacher Appreciation : usually buy lunch one day. Elisa prefers keeping it on a Wed since that's when we've done it in the past. The caramel apple bar was a hit, maybe something like that again for that friday? Or some sort of treat. Gift cards and thank you cards? One gift each day? \$50 cash again- around \$2000 total? Need to think about if we're going to do all staff or just teachers. We could do full money for teachers and less (20) for others might work since they already **VOTE - passed for \$50 teachers; \$20 additional staff.**
- Cart treats : *we'd feel blue without you-all blue snacks and drinks, we know you're pooped - "poop" emoji cupcakes with fruit* PTO Today ideas



- May Gecko Gold Store : May 14-15 - need to post sign up link, maybe around 4/14 - last store of the year
- **FUNDS REQUEST:** DJ for 6th grade dance - \$400 is the request, using the same preferred DJ and don't want to consider switching. **Passed**
Gary quoted us \$200 for the same date, time and equipment

Upcoming Appreciation Days:

April 3 - ParaPros (9 include pre-k)

April 4 - Library (1)

April 7-11 - Asst. Principal (1)

April 23 - Office ladies (3)

May 1 - Principal (1)

May 2 - Lunch Hero (4)

May 5-9 Teacher App Week (40?)

May 7 - Nurse (4) no more parapro nurses per Elisa, does this change the number?

Gift cards on hand-

- 1 Dick's
- 1 Amazon
- 1 Starbucks
- 4 target
- 2 TJ Maxx
- 3 Sportsman's Warehouse