



Parent Teacher Organization

PTO General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 15th 2023 - 7:30 am in the KES Cafeteria

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – each participant introduced themselves, role, and students in school.
2. **Approved Minutes** – motion to approve Lindsay Ying and seconded by Kim Sinapi.
3. **Budget** – presented by Lindsey Cullen, KES PTO Treasurer. ASA still pay vendors, will happen end of session. Paid for 7 scholarship students. Raised \$1576 for school supply packs. Halloween Fair raised over \$8k.
4. **Thank You** – Halloween Fair – Amber Crane and Tanya want to thank all volunteers (see full list in report). Garden volunteers – thank you!!
5. **DEI/COMPACT Presentation** – Jocelyn Lichten, Ian Witzman, Karen Poffenberger, and Cristy Harris.
 - a. Compact committee made up of 3 parents, 3 teachers and an admin (Cristy Harris). Work is focused on providing programs/topics to improve student experience. Topics can and do change every year depending on the need. Past two years – focus on DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging). Focus on Heritage months – 1st of every month they highlight different Heritages (Latino and Native American so far this year – rotating through until we celebrate all).
 - b. Karen defined DEIB and reviewed the importance of inclusiveness and belonging and how that is linked directly to learning and student success and experiences. An inclusive community that celebrates differences is important to success. One question the committee gets a lot is - - Is the DEIB work taking away from academics? No – its integrated into the curriculum in an organic way. For example, Native American Heritage month was integrated into library, music, and into the bulletin board (QR codes/interactive images on the bulletin boards). Enriching the current curriculum and offering opportunities to teachers. Offering Art opportunities for students inspired by Native American - art on display at Katonah Library. Important to also promote at home.

- c. Ian Witzman discussed his experience and involvement on the DEIB committee and at the district level. Last year we celebrated pride as a district. Parent support and engagement is very much appreciated and needed to create an inclusive environment. Contact DEIB committee members with questions.

6. Committee Updates

- a. **Authors** – Authors for each grade are set (see PPT).
- b. **Bulletin Board** – DEI Compact, Thankful tree, etc.
- c. **Book Fair** – starting tomorrow and then during the Holiday Boutique
- d. **Buddies Bonus Activities** – Fall wrapping up and winter programs being finalized. Registration opening 12/3.
- e. **Class Pictures** – retakes on Fri (end email to get on list). 5th grade group photo also will be taken that day.
- f. **Community Service** – Food Drive – collecting through Friday.
- g. **Fifth Grade** – 5th grade centric email with all information in one place is coming.
- h. **Garden** – 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade have classroom visits. Every grade will visit.
- i. **Halloween Fair** – was amazing – thank you to all!
- j. **Holiday Gift Drive** – Dec 4th to Dec 15th with the wrap night on December 19th.
- k. **Holiday Boutique** – Nov 18th, bake sale, and entertainment.
- l. **Staff Appreciation** – 50th day treats, custodian day gifts were given, holiday gifts for support staff are coming, etc.
- m. **SEPTO** – if people would like to get involved and learn more about what they are offering, experiences, and meet other parents there is a monthly meeting at the Horse and the Hound.
- n. **Science Fair** – Monday, February 26th.

7. Other

- a. **Julia Drake** – Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum – please send an email with questions.
- b. **The Lion King** – 5th grade only through the school. Practice will take place during school/music and will be accessible to all students. Every student will play a part. Specifics and more details to come. Will learn protocols and processes from IMES and MP (Friday, April 26th).

8. Important Dates – reviewed dates on slides.