PTO Meeting Minutes

1/18/2024

APPROVED 3.19.24

1) Introductions: in the room and webex.
2) Motion to approve the December minutes – Majority approved
3) Treasurer Update (Liz Absent):
    a) FUNraisers – local businesses will donate % of sales of PTO; community building
        - $1,550 revenue to PTO YTD for 2023-2024 school year
        - Minted.com is ongoing and generally $1,000/ year (not included above)
        - New idea is Tyed by Love – local business interested in community building; recently returned to Wellesley from Newton
        - Upcoming potential idea: Fiorellas and Yogurt Beach

    b) PTO Dollars at Work -
        - Two new basketball hoops were installed in the Schofield Gym on Monday
        - Look great, congrats PTO
        - Nice job, Liz. You are a superhero

4) Principal Update by Principal Jordan Hoffman
    a. A big 'Thank You' for Wednesday lunch and new basketball hoops
    b. Breakfast for All.
        - Served 71 breakfasts; 23% of population; at least one student per classroom
        - Schofield is pilot but all school will follow with free breakfast for all students
        - Whitson is the supplier and happy to coordinate with schools on the menu; everything must by USDA approved
        - Working on ways to quickly process each student getting a meal as names are required to be recorded
        - Healthy discussion on the program

Parents recognized a "huge win" to have free breakfast. Positive and excited for program.

Parents raised questions regarding the quality of the food and nutritional elements. Should trusted adults be encouraging offers as healthy food choices? We can work with Whitson's on the menus. How do families 'opt out' if they don't want their kids to be served food? Families should discuss at home and inform teachers of their preferences while we work out an mechanism to incorporate family preferences. Does breakfast delay start of school and take away from learning? Breakfast doesn't count against school learning hours. Could PTO supplement healthy options like fruit? What about waste if you don't want all options? Can student take part of a meal? For prepackaged food, kids might save for later. Suggestion to use bar codes to speed processing of students.

- HUGE 'thank you' to Schofield Cares and teachers for supplying food to students prior to this program

c. New playground Update
    - New playground is on the table for the fall but there are still obstacles
    - Money is allotted but not approved. Funded by DPW and needs to be approved in town meeting
    - Site Council has met with DPW and landscape designer to brainstorm on ideas but window for implementation is tight and with unknowns like weather

5) Creative Arts update - Carrie
   PTO allots funds for each grade to have 2-3 events / year and all school events. The programs are tailored to the curriculum for each grade.
   Looking for volunteers – 2 parents per grade to plan and run the event next year.

6) Day of Imagineering is May 8th; needs lots of volunteers
   Room parents to communicate advanced notice for parents to hold calendar

7) Hawk's Eye Literary and Art Journal – The committee works with teachers to submit entries and run the vote for cover art. We need additional volunteers to help create journal including scanning and graphic designer. Lou Backster worth asking again

8) Staff Appreciation Committee – partnering with room parents each grade stocks teacher break room. Teachers love it. The program is new and feedback is welcome. Teacher appreciation week was red carpet theme and great feedback

9) Community Service Committee has two upcoming opportunity
    a) Food drive for Wellesley food pantry – Afterschool opportunity to sort food with parent volunteers. Need to decide on Schofield's spin. Ideas was 100 cans by 100 days of school.
    B) Cradle to Crayon Facility - Families can sort and inspect items – 2 hour work shifts. Date in late March TBD.

10) Plug PTO social media – looking for social media volunteers to increase awareness of school activities and reminders

11) Calendar announcements
    a. February 12 – Safari night: alligator in the school; chinchilla
    b. March 5 – family science night
    c. Shoppers Corner – so much merchandise; donate and shop (started in 1972)
    d. April break – Red Sox game