

Meeting Minutes

Kromrey PTO

Date: January 17, 2023

Location: Kromrey

Meeting Called to Order by: Melissa Hunt

Time: 9:45 am

Attendance: 6

Members present: Sarah Cords, Eric Engel (joined at 10), Melissa Hunt, Jenny Maron, Dom Ricks (joined at 10), Alix Thomas

Members absent: Kristen Eidson, Marianne Kenny, Krissy Mayer, Kathryn McLeod, Carrie Rancourt

The meeting began with the Land Acknowledgement. The reason for doing this is to inspire ourselves and others to take action to support all racial, religious, and identity groups. This is a starting point for our PTO to publicly state that we realize that there is work to be done, and we are committed to helping all students in our schools & community.

I want to begin by acknowledging that we are on ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. We recognize the community, their elders both past & present, as well as future generations.

In an 1832 treaty, the Ho-Chunk were forced to cede this territory.

Decades of ethnic cleansing followed when both the federal and state government repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought to forcibly remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin.

This history of colonization informs our shared future of collaboration and innovation. This acknowledgment reaffirms our commitment and responsibility in improving

relationships among members of our community who are of different races, religions, ethnicities & gender identities.

Welcome and Introductions

- Melissa welcomed everyone.

Land Recognition

- Sarah Cords read the Land Recognition (above).

Approval of Minutes

Dec. 20, 2022 minutes. MH moved to approve, JM seconded, unanimous vote, minutes approved.

Board Member Reports

- Recruiting Reports: Volunteer still needed to coordinate Cougar Dash.
 - Melissa notes we should revisit all board position descriptions and keep trying to recruit future board members. Agreed that the entire PTO Google drive needs to be cleaned up and bylaws revisited regarding quorum needs for voting. **Action:** Sarah will read through bylaws and report back, and look into tidying up Google Drive.
 - Something called the Parent/Caregiver Participation committee has also been proposed, but the group discussed that perhaps such a committee is not necessary at this time.
- Treasurer's Report: Melissa Hunt
 - Balance through December 18, 2022 at \$12,400 at bank. The PTO did fund Carol DeYoung's \$1000 request for the Greek play experience for all sixth graders. There are no current outstanding items to be paid or funding requests from teachers. There were a few end-of-year donations and a couple of donations (all through PayPal) in early January.
 - Melissa noted again that Kristin Canniff in the KMS office requests that staff funding requests be run by her/office staff before we vote either way, due to confusion caused when staff think their requests have been approved and they expect instant reimbursement or use of the school credit card.
 - Melissa also suggested that in future, prizes and thank-yous to students (and also perhaps staff) consist of KMS spirit wear. The group agreed with this idea.

Committee Member Reports

- Fundraising report–Alix Thomas

- Alix raised questions about the efficacy and future procedure for sending fundraising asks/emails to all school parents. The email that went out on Campus Messenger in early January did not include a “Donate” button, a link to donate, a link to the PTO website, or the address of the school to which checks could be sent. Group feels it was a bit of a missed opportunity. In future, we may want to discuss a policy of running emails/communications by one communications person, or by a second person for proofreading/ideas.
 - Alix notes we still need a Cougar Dash coordinator. She is working on re-doing the sponsor flyer.
 - Spirit wear. Alix is working on ordering a variety of items so people can see what they’re buying, and is still working out how best to receive payment and deliver items. People will be able to pick up spirit wear they’ve ordered at conferences, and EE and DR confirm what doesn’t get picked up can be distributed to kids during advisory. JM notes that times when parents are around are often the best times to have some spirit wear available to sell; many parents wanted to buy items at Picture Day 2021. Alix also confirmed that it is okay to order/sell pajama pants, which we hope will be a popular item.
 - A Restaurant Night fundraiser has been scheduled at Noodles for Thursday, January 26, 2023. Instructions for that are going out in Kromrey eNews, newsletter, and on the website. JM notes her daughter already asked about it, and it was advertised in Kromrey’s daily announcements. Alix also asked if KMS can run that info on its marquee that week; EE thinks that is possible.
- **Sunshine Fund**
 - Kristen and Kathryn were absent today but sent the message that they are happy Nichole (KMS social worker) is back part-time now (and will be back full-time in another month). Kathryn is working with the MCPASD Education Foundation on how their “Caring Closet” fund might impact or change how the PTO handles/advertises its Sunshine Fund fundraising.
- **Book Fair: Jenny Moran**
 - Jenny will coordinate with EE to set final dates/times for the spring book fair. It will coincide with spring parent-teacher conferences on **March 2nd and 7th, 2023.**
 - Krissy Mayer purchased thank-you gift cards for the custodial staff who helped, and those cards were distributed.
 - The last book fair went well, and Jenny hopes to give each Kromrey staff member (DR notes there are 105) \$50 in Scholastic credit to spend at the next fair. JM and KM also recommend giving more credit directly to kids (through social services staff).
 - MH noted the importance of planning in advance to get enough singles and coins for change at the next book fair; some banks put limits on how much you can get per visit.

- **Teacher Appreciation: Carrie Rancourt**
 - Carrie absent, but Alix will speak with her about next event, hopefully in January or February.
- **Newsletter and Website**
 - Donations page on the website has been streamlined. Restaurant Night info is front and center currently on the website.
- **8th Grade Graduation Celebration**
 - MH, CR, and AT all have eighth-graders and are discussing ideas for 8th grade celebration.
 - Dom discussed need for more activities at dance/party. Alix asked about possibility of all-day celebration at Governor Nelson (as it used to be, pre-pandemic). Eric suggested that may be a possibility, depending upon ability to find new caterer and sufficient staff to participate. Alix also wonders about the possibility of an 8th-grade t-shirt with the names of all 8th graders printed on it.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m. In person at Kromrey.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:40 a.m.

Minutes compiled by: Sarah Cords, secretary