

Garnet Mesa Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Notes
December 4, 2024
8:30-9:45am

1. Welcome

- Thanks to Jenna Valdez and Fran Esplin for decorating the teachers lounge. It looks great!

2. Financials

- There is just under \$8500 in PTO account.
- iPads have been ordered and delivered.
- Christmas books ordered from Scholastic and Amazon. Tiona did a great job taking advantage of Black Friday/Cyber Monday deals!
- \$762 came from City Market on November 15.
- GMES will try to send out info about City Market partnership more often, as it's such an easy way to get the school money. Ideas: attachment in weekly email, QR code sent home in Tuesday folders.

3. Food for Teachers—Christmas

- PTO will provide breakfast for GMES staff on Monday, December 16 (the Monday before Christmas break).
- Starvin' Arvin's will donate cinnamon rolls.
- GMES cafeteria will provide breakfast casserole, fruit, yogurt parfaits, juice
- PTO will provide "fancy" coffee creamers.
- PTO will start setting up at 7:30 on the morning of 12/16, and will clean up in the afternoon.
- Watch for communication from Tiona about volunteering to set up/take down.

4. Christmas Books Ordered

- All books are ordered; total came to \$2,800
- Books were 25% off and in stock! Big win!
- Should be delivered in plenty of time to deliver to teachers.

5. Holly: Idea for parent involvement

- DMS Art Studio invited parents to come in for an art lesson taught by their student.
- Perhaps GMES could do something similar. Have Specials teachers help students teach their parents a game (P.E.) a song or simple musical instrument (Music), or an art lesson (Art).
- Perhaps sometime in January or February?

6. Mr. Renfrow

- Mr. Renfrow thanks the PTO for everything they do. He is proud of GMES and the direction the school is heading.
- Possip Surveys are being sent out quarterly, but parents are **always** welcome to contact the school with comments, concerns, and suggestions.
- Mr. Renfrow wants parents to feel comfortable putting their contact information on the surveys. He appreciates being able to contact parents to discuss issues.
 - There has been some great feedback regarding sugar issues.
- Student Panorama survey results are out; admin has not had a chance to look over them yet.
- Dibbles MOY assessment is happening. Hoping to see some good growth!
- Once a month, teachers and staff are doing a "Team PLC."
 - Grade-level teachers, SPED teachers, Alicia Johnson, admin, etc.
 - Really focus on how to help every student grow
- Great trends coming from Q1 math data
- GMES is having conversations on how to help kids that aren't necessarily G/T, but are excelling. How can their education be enrich those students, without just giving them busy work, or extra work that may feel like punishment.
 - Also, how to reach students that are struggling?
- G/T (Gifted and Talented): Sissily Brown, G/T coordinator and her boss Wendy, the Special Services Coordinator, are working on creating a set of minimum guidelines for G/T across the district.

7. Other

- Parade of Lights: no float from GMES this year.
 - Ms. Urich did not receive a lot of positive feedback regarding last year's float.
 - There are a lot of kinks that need to be worked out, will take more time to plan next year.
- Fundraising: this year's big purchase will be outdoor tables for the outdoor classroom. Main fundraisers are Book Fairs, Color Run, Penny Wars.
- Teacher Appreciation, May 2025:
 - Start brainstorming ideas for gifts for the next meeting.
 - Ideas suggested include food, cups, blankets, GMES gear, food truck at GMES, cookies, etc.
- Drop-off Loop in front of building:
 - Becoming crazy and dangerous in the mornings
 - Cones are in loop so SPED bus has a place to drop kids off
 - Parents are parking in the middle of the loop and getting out to take their kids into school, making it impossible for other parents to drive through the loop.
 - Possible solutions: Signage, painting on road to direct traffic, SPED aides to help move traffic.
- Discipline:

- September was the highest month for office referrals for discipline (almost 70 incidents); that number was cut in half for November.
- Administration is working on different strategies to help calm kids down before they get to Step 4/office referral.
- SPED team has been a great help with this!

Next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th at 8:30.