PTO GENERAL MEETING Wednesday October 5, 3:15 PM

In attendance:

Jake Toomey (Principal), Eliza Cavanaugh (PTO President), Andrea Michael (Vice President), Christina Gay (Treasurer), Sarah Uprichard (Secretary), Cindy Pease (Officer at Large), Jacki Pinger (fourth grade teacher and Teacher Liaison), Anne Naughton, 2nd Grade teacher, Tomi Eve, School Librarian, Melissa Flynn (parent), Melissa Stafilano (parent), and Corissa Tripp (parent).

I. Welcome. Eliza starts the meeting by asking all present to share something positive about how technology supports our experience at the school. Mentions included the new PTO website, Remind App, school pictures available online, Google Docs' portability, and the online sharing of pictures of the children during their school day.

II. Principals Report. One month into the year; Harvest Sampler coming October 13, grades working on different crops.

III A. President's report: Summer Reading Challenge overseen by Ms. Eve this year. Quick consultation with her: 28 students turned in reading logs. It's decided that they will be given a ticket for their free book at the All-School Meeting, which they can redeem afterward with Tomi. November 1st is the Box Tops Fall submission deadline; when and how to distribute prizes? Jake says Fun Fridays are best, to minimize potential disruption of academics. Wreath fundraiser coming soon: 22" wreaths with red bow, donated, 100% profit for PTO! Price to be determined, maybe $20.

III B. Vice President's report: Andrea created a website. Info about fundraisers, events, Fun Fridays, and other PTO announcements and general info is available and searchable here. Fourcornerspto.wordpress.com Discussion about Facebook vs website in trying to reach more families. Different families tend to use different sites. FB is trendy and more of a "broadcast" for announcements; website is more formal and easier to search. Andrea is delighted that when she posts on the website, the info is automatically linked to Twitter and Facebook.

Still working to find the best ways to reach and communicate with families. Remind App might not be helpful unless and until we can reach the entire online school group. We do ask for feedback often and in multiple ways. Maybe a mid-month newsletter with highlights of ongoing work. Email service? Still would need emails, sign-ups. Email can lead to mass reply-all. Open discussion by choice versus signing up for alerts when comments are made on blog posts. We commit to adding a PTO blurb to Jake's monthly school newsletter.

III C. Officer-at Large's report: Cindy is planning a Family Photo/Spaghetti Supper night; will check with Jake about Friday November 17th. Photo Booth versus set times: set times might mean fewer openings and lower event income. PTO recently received from Jake a calendar/spreadsheet of school events; Cindy will map more events using that.

III D. Treasurer's report. Vote to spend $100 now for additional folding chairs rather than pay for extra shipping later. The bank account is a little lean, but we have three fundraisers coming up in the next two months. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Business in progress: Discussion of Fun Friday possibilities moved to next month for time. Book Fair with World Eye Books coming during conferences.

V. New Business: Winter Farmers Market dates are opportunities for PTO. Table? Low-effort/staffing need would be best, so as not to siphon off volunteer energy from other PTO events. No bake sale— can't compete with vendors, who pay to be there. Possibility raised of holding a Just-Send-Money fundraiser this year, with no product attached. Cindy found an example online of a school in Springfield which had written a good letter with different donation tiers and check boxes. The idea is received positively. Jacki and others suggest mentioning that we're raising money for Fun Fridays, noting examples and explaining that they're expensive. Maybe offer to raise the budget line item? Make families aware of exactly what their money will go to for the kids.

Meeting adjourned shortly after 7pm