

Notes for PTO MTG March 14, 2018:

I. **Welcome:**

Eliza opened the meeting asking everyone in attendance for a school/spring-related share. From the responses we got: Random acts of kindness, excitement about our showcase event, the time change, more daylight, no more snow days and the beginning of spring sports...etc.

II. **Principal's Report:**

Jake Toomey, started with excitement that we one of our fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Rancourt, is a Grinspoon recipient this year. There is more happening and going on with our school-wide Flight theme. With all the shooting/school threats happening, there is talk about security and safety in school, as well as at the district level.

There is an increase of safety and accountability nationwide, lots of organization by students. More school-wide themes, different themes at K-4, Middle School and High School levels, for the elementary level Day of Kindness, our principal decided to read to each classroom today; implementing "Every Kindness," rippling effect theme...etc.

Mrs. Rancourt commented on the kids randomly walking up to her during the school day and "smiling."

A. **President's Report:**

i. PTO officer-at-large/ Events Coordinator Update:

Last month, Cindy Pease stepped down from her Officer-At-Large position. We thank her for huge contributions in the first half of the year, and hope that she will return in the future.

ii. **Bingo/Book giveaway update:**

Bingo for Books. The plan changed within the last few weeks, as our officer at large (Cindy Pease) stepped down from PTO, and too many snow cancellations....the March event fell through. We are changing how the event is set up and will tie it in with the summer reading program and give away books.

iii. **Book fair with roundabout Books March 29-30:**

- We are using a different vendor for our book fair this spring. Roundabout Books, which is also located in Greenfield is where we will get the books from. Andrea took point and directly talked with the owners of Roundabout Books and set things up. March 30, is Good Friday and some of the teachers are taking that day off as a holiday. Because of this not all conferences will be held on Friday. Corissa Tripp, mentioned that at Federal Street School, they have bins for each teacher; so parents will be able to see what teachers are requesting for their classrooms.

iv. **Fun Friday Update:**

Jeff Davis is coming to DSFC March 16 to perform and teach our students about traditional American music. Ed the Wizard, who was recommended by a parent, is specifically excited about our school flight theme, and is planning to launch rockets. Ed the Wizard will perform on Friday April 14! Dino man will be performing on Friday May 18, his theme is space travel!!

v. **Box Tops spring submission:**

Next year's Box Tops plan to be discussed at April meeting (with teachers)

Our spring submission of box tops was a lot lower than last year. I (Sarah) want to take over the box tops for the fall 2018, unless someone else steps-up for the job. Eliza reminded us all that the previous Box Tops coordinator did more promos, but got roughly the same counts as Eliza, by sending home empty baggies occasionally and fewer reminders. Box tops incentives in general? Summer Box tops?

B. Vice President's Report:

- i. Online communications update: survey, FFetc.
Our four corners PTO page t getting a lot of views except when we publish blog posts, but we plan to keep it going particularly for incoming parents. We have been sharing Four Corners posts as was suggested at our last meeting. . We conducted a survey last year to find out the best day/time worked for the majority of Four Corners parents and family. Friday looked like the best day that would most likely get the best turnout.
- ii. **Primary Clothing update/ income report:**
Our update from www.primary.com website. We got about \$40.00 put into our PTO account which is great considering it is coming to us for only a little bit of work!.

C. Treasurer's Report:

- i. **Fun Friday budget increase:**
We had voted to raise the F.F. budget from \$3000 to \$4000 before Cindy Pease left the PTO. (Cindy did a great job as officer at large and with fundraising, with wreaths wildly exceeding budgeted expectations, and our two produce sale events.) Partly due to a mix-up about the deposit for Jeff Davis, this year's booked events exceed the already-increased Fun Friday budget by \$649. Eliza made the case that it makes sense to have the largest portion of the money raised by PTO go toward Fun Friday events, since they take place during school hours and therefore enrich every student's educational experience. Jackie Pinger asked to confirm that to spending more on Fun Fridays this year would not overly deplete the PTO account. Christina confirmed that, especially with the upcoming Pierce Brothers Coffee fundraiser, we are still projected to have more at year's end than we need going into next year. A vote to increase the budget again to \$4649 passed unanimously.
- ii. **Field trip reimbursement this year:**
This topic is still open for discussion. We were talking about adjusting the field trip reimbursement to \$500-\$1000 for field trip and bus expenses, based on the need at the time of booking. The line item was originally created to supplement fees for families in need on the field trips students pay for..
- III. **Business in progress:**
 - iii. Spring/Fall fundraiser: new plan: Pierce Brothers coming this spring and Flower bulb fundraiser in the Fall 2018.
- IV. **New business:**
 - A. **Funding school lunch account support families in need:**
After consulting with the district office in charge of the school lunch accounts, Principal Toomey decided that PTO will not be helping fund support for school lunch accounts for families in need.

B. Recruiting new PTO participants and new officers:

Jake is going to talk to his AEL friends and see if there are any parents there who will be bringing their kids into Kindergarten in the Fall of 2018; who would want to join the PTO. Jake will also check in with teachers and reach out to parents who may be good candidates.

V. Open call for input/ discussion:

Right before our meeting ended for the evening, Sarah (PTO Secretary) asks what everyone thought of her current plans for summer spirit sticks. She found a different website (came from Cindy Pease) and found a few spirit sticks that we use throughout the year at a discounted price from the original price that we buy them at.