



PTO Executive Committee Board Meeting
December 1, 2021

Attendees: Beth Carmody (Principal), Gary Wendt (Teacher Representative), Nissa Cox (President), Anna Anderson (Treasurer), Amy Kay (Communications), Michelle Cullen (Assistant Communications), Jessica Newell (Secretary)

Call to order at 9:05am.

President's Report – Nissa Cox

Referendum polling will be February thru April, with a decision being made in August. There will be a November 8th 2022 election.

D36 “next steps” for covid mitigation discussions will begin in January.

Considering sending out a survey this January about Kiddo's to gather feedback from families. Yoga was cancelled because of the vaccination day and cold weather. We will revisit this idea this spring.

Book fair was a huge success!

Winter planters look wonderful - thank you Sara Kinnebrew

Coming Up:

Greater Chicago Food Depository Food Drive: 11/29-12/15

Winter Showcase: 12/16

Month of Community (MLK Day of Service activities) in January. Jessalyn Garvey is helping coordinate and work with a teacher committee. Proposed idea is to do one project per week in January. Two projects would be on Fridays where PTO would help (volunteer, financial, etc.)

Would like to incorporate teaching the kids how their work/volunteering is impacting people - FaceTime or in-person presentation to connect with the community. Ideas are New Trier Food Pantry and Presbyterian Homes.

World Travelers (Iran with Sani Family) week of February 7th

Secretary Report - Jessica Newell | Approval of 11/3/21 Meeting Minutes:

First motion - Amy, Second - Michelle, Approved.

Backordered Spirit Wear items arrived and Margie distributed them to teachers to go home with students. Jess will find out if there are any outstanding backordered items to be delivered.

We are not doing winter hats this year. Something to consider for next year but order over the summer to avoid production delays.

Principal's Report - Beth Carmody

PTO communication has been great in promoting all school events.

Teachers are reporting back that kids are finally settling back into a routine.

Thanksgiving week break was great for the teachers to relax and decompress.

New student update: two new families joining. Going forward, we need to set up a communication procedure so that teachers are the ones making the announcement to the classroom and the news isn't spread around too early.

2022/2023 school registration is open - spread the word and encourage families on the fence to register. Beth is currently giving tours.

Met with the playground designer, equipment salesman, 4th grade leadership committee and neighbor rep representative and it was a good meeting. School board is paying for replacing the large structure and surface (from current woodchips). Discussed a potential Spring PTO fundraiser to replace the wooden structures on the top of the playground.

Teacher Representative Report - Gary Wendt

Winter Showcase is a new open house format this year. Groups are broken down by 25 families per group to help disperse people around the school. The kids wanted to keep the tradition of singing to their families so the last 5/10 minutes will be a performance in small groups. The theme this year is "Welcome": Kindergarten - saying hello. 1st grade - everyone matters. 2nd grade - inclusion. 3rd grade - being kind. 4th grade - sharing our joy.

Each grade level will have a screen with pre-recorded songs and interviews.

PTO will help decorate the school with student projects from Miss Bammy the week of the showcase. Exact dates/times TBD.

Day of - we need 2 people to usher and help direct people.

WGST - 4th graders have been adding to their shopping list. They located a rounded "anchor" desk and chairs. They'd like a round table and 4 chairs. Once ready to make a purchase, Gary will reach out to Anna.

Vice President's Report – Anne Babick

Day before winter break is PJ/movie day. We will ask that the room parents communicate what we do that day at school. Beth will clarify what exactly should be communicated to families.

Winter Showcase should be a reminder by room parents.

'Teacher Gifts' that were a voluntary monetary donation this fall, are given out to teachers before winter break. Room parents should remind families that there is NOT a class gift to coordinate.

Personal gifts to teachers/staff are voluntary.

Treasurer's Report – Anna Anderson & Elke Rehbock

School board meeting takeaways: 950 D36 kids were vaccinated at the school district vaccination clinic. The tax levy is happening this spring. Winnetka residents will see an uptick in the D36 portion of their tax bill up by 1%. Fall assessment - MAP results are pre-pandemic norms. They saw the most needs on IAR results on 5th grade math. Reminder that these results are from tests taken 2 years ago. SEL survey - middle school is an area of growth. Plan moving forward - continuous improvement. Overall, no surprising decrease during the pandemic.

Communications Report – Amy Kay & Michelle Cullen

Next Item goes out on January 12th. We should send out a signup genius for Winter Showcase volunteers and the decorating jobs.

Book Fair in-person sales were \$8700 - waiting for the on-line number. In-person so far brought in $\frac{1}{3}$ of our 2019 number.

The website option is always available - if families shop all year, Amy will find out if we get supplemental checks. May be an option to communicate and fundraise all year.

Bernie's book drive - huge success! Over 500+ books were donated.

Next Meetings:

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 14th (Elke)

Next Exec. Meeting: Wednesday, January 5th (Amy)

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am.