

Grace Abbott Elementary PTO Meeting

Tuesday October 5, 2021

Board Members: Jennifer Thorndyke, President; Marcy Saniuk, President Elect; Jon Warren, Treasurer; Molly Warren Secretary (absent)

Welcome and call to order at 6:30pm

Introductions: Board members and meeting attendees.

Announcements:

- Budget finalized
- Approval Process
- Classroom parties
- Fun nights for the Fall
- Carnival for next year
- Long term PTO goals

Principal's Report:

- Current Covid Cases on the website - anyone can access. Lunches are all in the cafeteria; having them spread out is a big weight on supervision. If numbers continue to rise it is something to consider.
- Composting now at Abbott - emphasizing recycling. 54% of trash can now be compost.

Treasurer's Report:

- Budget finalized; Zero base budget currently. Hoping for us to be over for long term planning.
- Fees associated with PayPal - \$400 in fees (Walk-A-Thon and Buzzbooks)
- Ideas for online collection without so many fees - Sarah Ruttle emailing ideas to Jon
- Let Jon know if there are things we need to purchase - now have a debit card.

Secretary Report:

- none

Committee Updates:

- **Movie Nights (David/Jen Falke):** Jen sending snacks to school to store.
- **Walk-A-Thon (Erika Rooney):** Great time at the Walk a thon! \$10K online donations \$11k for cash/check about \$20k total. Waiting on a few more coming in. Prizes need to be purchased - waiting on one more classroom. Will be in a couple of weeks. Classroom winners will also be calculated when all money comes in. Oct 22 - make up day for those absent.
- **Fifth Grade Farewell:** We will look into parent volunteers for this committee.
- **Yearbook (Jackie Ryba):** price increases to \$15 after Oct 31st. Will put a reminder in Gator Tales. 5th grade dedications are due Nov 5th; teachers remind parents at conferences.
- **Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Robin Matthes):** Nov/Dec will have more ; Amazon \$145 Bakers \$500 in the first quarter.

- **Social/Welcome Committee (Marcy, Molly):** Questioning/waiting to see if we can have the breakfast in March. Looking for new volunteers to take over. Outdoor event in lieu of indoor?
- **Bricks:** Have not sold some recently. Sarah Ruttle shared the idea to promote “Buy a Brick” to promote 40th school year. Legacy project. Reach out to past families, students, or current/past teachers. “Forty Years of Abbott Strong”. Gator Tales, website, how else to promote? Online option? Paypal QR code. \$40/per brick Dr. C looking into contact to see if we can continue using. Dawn can put the information on the web page to purchase.
- **Buzz Book (Kim Parker and Julie Calvin (help)):** Buzz Books are going well and will be going out mid to end of October.
- **Fun night (Holli Vessley):**
 - Cancelled for the Fall - will revisit in January
- **Dancing Classrooms:**
 - Dr. C met with the director; they are onboard with a few changes. Four classrooms increase in price \$5200 total PTO would pay \$2600 portion.
 - Potentially grants for future years? Sarah Ruttle can work on writing grant.
- **Original artwork (Debbie Smith):** no update - if we are going to move forward we need help with this project. Would need to start around February.
- **Youth Frontiers:**
 - New company Dr. C has talked to. Original cost \$1800 ; could not get new price from new director. Will table until next meeting in November.
- **Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Kristy Gotschall):**
 - For Halloween Dr. C will purchase snack/drink for each classroom and not have parents in the classroom.
 - Kristy will reach out to classroom parents to see if they could contribute to the party/send in donations/ideas for party.
 - Parade around the school and CAN wear costumes per the rules of costumes. (nothing overtly scary or bloody)
- **Hospitality (Marta Thomas and Sarah Ruttle):**
 - Budget approved (½ goes to gift cards) (other ½ to conferences and Teacher Appreciation)
 - Conferences Thursday and next Tuesday - great response to the sign up! Donate food/paper products/food. Thursday - soup/sandwiches Tuesday - pizza/soup/salad \$230 in parent donations
- **Educational Grant and Scholarship Committee:(Elena Nieto)**

- Capping each grant; educational reasoning for grant; let us know if there are bigger items that would have a greater impact on learning
- **Carnival (Kristy G.)**
 - Reworking for the future
 - Having fundraising for the carnival - silent auction.
 - Removing the prize situation

Announcements:

- See above.
- Goal as PTO for the school.

New Business:

- Website Changes - Kim ideas and Dawn from 2 to 1.

Adjournment: 8:07pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday, November 2nd @ 6:30pm