

Grace Abbott Elementary PTO Meeting

Tuesday September 7, 2021

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

Welcome and call to order at 6:31

Introductions: Board members and meeting attendees.

Principal's Report:

- Carl is no longer going to be doing before and after school carpool duty. This is a paid position. We are looking to find another person to fulfill this role. It was posted in the Gator Tales several weeks ago. Hours 8-8:20 and 3:15-3:35 to cover front crosswalk at 155th street. We will run it in the Gator Tales again.
- Is there insurance available to cover anything that may happen to anyone covering crosswalk? We will reach out to Kelsey Johnson.

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance
- Expenses in July/August \$700 for signs for the new students and Sign Gypsies
- Bakers and Amazon Smile profits
- Fee for the Buzz Books was paid

Secretary Report:

- No report

Committee Updates:

- **Movie Nights (David Falke):** What are the parameters for movie night? Does it have to be a DVD or streaming permitted? Movie suggestions...Tom and Jerry (PG). The first movie night is October 1st at 6:30pm. Movie length: 1 hour and 41 minutes

-Dr. Chaussee will reach out to Josh Kitchen to see if he can help with popcorn as he has in the past and provide Falke's with Josh's contact info.
- **Walk-A-Thon (Erika Rooney):** Walk-A-Thon scheduled for October 1st. T-Shirts have been ordered. Erica will forward payment/reimbursement to Jon Warren. Shirts have been covered through sponsorship. Packets will come home September 20th. Prizes will resume. Erica suggested exploring other options for a fundraiser...color run, dance a thon, etc. Molly Warren will look into Fun Run fundraiser and Color Run info.
- **Fifth Grade Farewell:** We will look into parent volunteers for this committee.
- **Yearbook (Jackie Ryba):** Year Book information has been communicated.
- **Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Robin Matthes):** Amazon Smile rewards \$100
- **Social/Welcome Committee (Marcy, Molly):** We were looking at exploring other Social Committee events such as a Turkey Trot, etc.
- **Bricks:** Parents/Families can pay \$50 to have your name inscribed on a brick with your name on it at Abbott. Can we promote this in Gator Tales? Sarah Ruttle expressed interest if there are not any other volunteers available.

- **Buzz Book (Kim Parker and Julie Calvin (help)):** Buzz Book Information has been shared out electronically through PTO Facebook Page, Kindergarten teachers have emailed families, but a hard copy has not been sent out. A half sheet will be sent home to promote Buzz Book in Friday Folders. Kim is looking for volunteers to help at the end of September. Kim suggested merging the Membership Toolkit and the school website.
- **Fun night (Holli Vessley):**
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ Fun Night 9/23
- **Dancing Classrooms:**
 - Meeting with the director on 9/20. PTO Pays $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost of \$4200, school pays other $\frac{1}{2}$.
- **Original artwork (Debbie Smith):**
 - We are in transition with a new art teacher
 - Funds have paid for the crossing guard in the past.
 - Kim Parker
- **Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Kristy Gotschall):**
 - Classroom Parties - \$40/party or parent donations?
 - \$40 gift cards will be given to classroom parents to purchase supplies/materials for classroom parties.
 - As of now, parents are able to volunteer for classroom parties.
- **Hospitality (Marta Thomas and Sarah Ruttle):**
 - Sarah and Marta met with Stephanie in the spring to transition into their roles .
 - They are looking into themes for Teacher Appreciation Week
 - \$25 giftcards for teachers
 - PTC meals: 2 nights of conferences, variety of potluck and catered. The teachers will be in the building on the night of conferences.
 - Omaha Taphouse Contact for conference meals: Bryan Musser
 - Budget increase to help cover cost: Suggested amount \$2,500
- **Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition Committee (Jocelyn Nickerson):**
 - No Report
- **Educational Grant and Scholarship Committee:(Elena Nieto)**
 - Teachers can go ahead and proposing teacher wish lists after Walk-A-Thon
 - Scholarship money for former Abbott students

- Elena will call the MPS Foundation and check with their finance contact.
- **Carnival (Kristy G.)**
 - If someone is interested in being the chair for the carnival Kristy can help.
 - Fun Services

Announcements:

- The budget will be proposed at the October meeting.

New Business:

- None

Adjournment: 8:08 pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday, October 5th @ 6:30pm