

Grace Abbott Elementary PTO Meeting

Tuesday November 2nd, 2021

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

Welcome: Call to order at 6:31pm

Introductions: Board introductions, parents, teachers present (Mr. Schulte and Mrs. Broesch).

Announcements:

- New process for PTO meetings
 - Asking all chairs to send an email with update and ask if there is anything needed from the Grace Abbott Parents or board to be announced or discussed in the next PTO meeting. Please ensure Molly Warren has an updated email address for the monthly reminder.
 - Board will prioritize meeting with pressing topics first as we go through the agenda to ensure we cover events coming up soonest
 - Keep meetings to a 1 hour max time limit
- NEW: PTO Newsletter will go home on Friday, November 5th.

Principal's Report: No report

Treasurer's Report: Jon shared the current budget. There are several things that need to be paid out from the Halloween parties and prizes from the Walk-a-Thon.

Secretary Report: Please contact Molly if there is a new committee chair/contact person.

Committee Updates:

- **Fifth Grade Farewell:** There was not a place on the volunteer committee form to check the 5th Grade Farewell. Kristy G. had several parents that wrote down they would help and will share those with Jennifer. Communication will go home to 5th grade parents with more information on this event.
- **Educational Grant and Scholarship Committee:(Elena Nieto):** Elena shared out the teacher grant wishlists. The budget for these items in past years has been \$4,000. Last year the budget was less due to the COVID and was set at \$3,500. The board will review the submissions and follow up with Elena before December.
- **Classroom Party Volunteer Coordinator (Kristy Gotschall):** Thoughts around Christmas holiday and how to evenly distribute gifts for support staff? Kristy shared what has been done in the past. Last year, PTO provided a giftcard to non-grade level classroom teachers. She also communicated with the classroom teachers to make cards from that teacher. Room parent groups will be in charge of doing something for the grade level teacher and assigning a support staff member to that group as well. Kristy will be communicating this information out to families soon.
- **Cash Rewards/Incentive Programs (Robin Matthes):** Tips going out in PTO newsletter.

- **Social/Welcome Committee (TBD):** - Looking for new chairs of the committee as current chairs are on board of PTO. No report
- **Bricks:** There are approximately 25 bricks in storage. We made a \$30 profit on the bricks in past years. Sarah will push out communication in Gator Tales, Facebook, PTO Newsletter, and on the PTO website.
- **Dancing Classrooms:** October meeting discussed four classrooms had an increased price to \$5200 total. PTO would pay \$2600 portion. Sarah Ruttle was going to look into grants. Dr. Chaussee is looking into a grant that should cover half of the cost.
- **Original artwork (Debbie Smith):** Thoughts on moving forward with this in school year 2022-23 before Christmas? Debbie is going to have Original Artwork for the 21-22 school year. Dr. Chaussee will get more information on when the artwork needs to be submitted.
- **Kindness Retreat:** Dr. Chaussee can't get a hold of a contact person for the "Kindness Retreat" but would like to find something to do in May 2022.
- **Yearbook (Jackie Ryba):** 5th Grade dedications due November 5th. Please submit any pictures to Jackie from the Walk-a-Thon, Halloween parties, etc.
- **Hospitality (Marta Thomas and Sarah Ruttle):** Great job during conference. The giftcards go out to staff for special recognition week. School Psychologist week 11/8, Paraprofessional week 11/17, etc. Next events: February conferences and Teacher Appreciation week (1st week in March).
- **Carnival (Kristy G.)-** Email Update
- **Walk-A-Thon (Erika Rooney):** Completed for 2021-22 School Year. 3 classrooms raised over \$1500 and were able to have Kona Ice Party and pie Dr. C in the face. Thank you Dr. C for being a good sport. It was on Facebook Live so other classrooms could participate. Prizes delayed due to COVID. TBD on delivery.
- **Buzz Book (Kim Parker and Julie Calvin (help)):** Sent home with kids
- **Fun night (Holli Vessley):** On hold due to COVID
- **Movie Nights (David/Jen Falke):** On hold due to COVID

Announcements: Paul Schulte thanked PTO on behalf of the staff for the conference meals.

Reminders/Follow Ups:

- Reminder for 5th Grade Parents to have dedication for Year Book.

New Business:

January meeting bring ideas forward on how to improve Grace Abbott.

Adjournment: Meeting adjournment at 7:31pm.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Next Meeting will be on January 11th. We will move it to the 2nd Tuesday of the month Jan.11th, 2022.