

**PTO Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 11, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Jenny Abeles, Jessica Graetz, Laura Seelbach, Chris Tennill, Dr. Nisha Patel, Stacey Siwak, Abby Goldstein, Brian Lawrence, Sandi Straeker, Diana Hopper, Lilly Scharff, Liz Florek, Alison Yee, Kristin Pollack

**School Reports:**

- Glenridge: Successful Readathon, donations up considerably from last year; Halloween parties/parade returned; also doing a separate food and essentials drive for gift cards
- Captain: Halloween parties returned; Teacher Wish List being fulfilled, 75% of funds used this year; Put in a new bike rack with funds for capital improvements; Adopt-A-Family with gift cards kicks off next week
- High School: Sent a new appeal for funding to parents; Freshman parent connections party is complete
- Family Center: Dewey's fundraiser very successful; Book Fair coming up on Dec. 3 at Betty's Books
- Meramec: Movie Night was best attended in years and socially distanced; Halloween parade/parties returned; Teacher Appreciation dinner provided for Conferences; Book Fair this Saturday at Barnes & Noble

Motion to approve the September Meeting Minutes. Lilly Scharff motioned, Diana Hopper seconded.  
Motion Passed unanimously

**Superintendent's Update, Dr. Patel:**

- 568 Elementary Students coming into get vaccinated this Saturday at CHS. Second shots will be given on Dec. 3. Staff booster event on Dec. 3
- Assessments ongoing to find out where our students are academically. 84 Percent of students are at or exceeding standards for reading; Each grade level scored above the national norm on the NWEA in math
- Social/emotional needs are being looked at, so we made the difficult decision for extended Thanksgiving Break. Childcare is being handled by Kid Zone.
- CHS Athletics, Cross Country made it to state this year
- Meramec Elementary had a recent loss of a staff member, we are here to support them

**Communications Update, Chris Tennill:**

- Buzz books put on each PTO web site

**Board of Education Update, Stacy Siwak:**

- Board meeting last night got first glimpse of recent standardized test scores taken during pandemic. The scores were similar to those in 2019
- Update on second goal of strategic plan of individual learning
- Reviewed policy on homeless students
- New school board election in April; filing dates are Dec. 7-28
- Passed resolution to require vaccines for staff; weekly testing required otherwise

- Community Engagement Forum at CHS, roundtable discussion from parents around goal of improved mental health

Clayton Education Foundation, Sandi Straeker:

- Food & Essentials Drive was successful. Cash raised was \$6,903. Food donations were abundant at most schools
- Feedback was that two weeks is a little long for donation period; Provide schools with schedule for e-blasts so we are not overcommunicating between the District and PTOs

Treasurer's Report, Jenny Abeles on behalf of Treasurer Tanya Hayden:

- No surprises yet this year on budget or financial statements
- Received dues from four of the six school PTOs
- Five of six school PTOs have completed IRS audit materials
- Amazon Business Account set up to enable tax-exempt business purchases by PTOs
- Amazon Smile information sent to all PTOs in October to encourage parents to shop on Amazon Smile to drive donations to the PTO Council with each purchase
- Motion to approve current financial statements. Motion made by Lilly Scharff; seconded by Laura Seelbach. Motion approved

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting date: February 10, 2022