

PTO COUNCIL MINUTES

11/21/24

1. Meeting started at 12:08PM

- 2. Attendees:** Jenny Abeles, Lilly Scharff, Whitlock, Kathryn Young, Deanna Palagallo, Madeline Akins, Stacy Siwak, Nisha Patel, Meredith Reese, Luke Heitert, John Holmes, Jen Jordan, Joanna Dinsmore, Betsy Meyland-Smith, Allyson Lavender, Laura Seelbach, Jessica Graetz, Tahnee Jackson Whitlock, Jena Schaumburg and Abby Goldstein.

3. Introductions

- a. 2 minute updates. Glendridge had fall book fair with lots of activities. Will be scheduling a spring book fair too.
- b. Family Center: book fair beginning of November. Parent's Night Out in December. Had a successful diaper drive.
- c. Wydown: prioritized fundraising with lots of success. Parent Connection Events well attended.
- d. Clayton High School: trying to engage more families in giving. Really good attendance, zoom feature been more utilized. Parent and Faculty book club has been great. Did a round of Parent Connections events that were reasonably successful. Attendance is about 30-40 people.
- e. Meramac: Trivia night sold out in January. Just finished book fair.
- f. Captain: Goal was to have an event a month. October was family Halloween dance. November Bingo Night, raised \$3000. December is holiday gift card drive. February 1st is pancake breakfast and book fair.

4. Superintendent's Update (Nisha Patel)

- a. Going through long range facilities master plan. Tail end of engagement phase. Community Forum at each meeting with only 10-15 parents at each meeting. There was a district-wide community Forum. Last forum will be December 4th at 7PM at the high school. Will also be sending a survey to all Clayton families and community members. There's a link to the website with all of the top priorities across the district. Outreach is key to ensure everyone knows about it and there's lots of input. The architecture firm will present at January board meeting.
- b. New Director of Safety and Security for district and will begin in January.
- c. Missouri School Improvement Plan. APR report every year, based on exams and testing schools do. Results will be available on Monday. You get grade on academics and other things like continued staff development, graduation rate, attendance, board engagement, etc.
- d. Clayton High School team playing in the state championship!

5. Board of Education Update (Stacy Siwak)

- a. Extremely thrilled to have been able to hire Director of Safety and Security.
- b. Long Range Facilities plan also engaging the City of Clayton

- c. New School Board member. Ben Binefield. Put out open application, had seven very qualified applicants. Has great experience with Safety and Security technology.
- d. Two board goals: facilities study, increase and improve community engagement and communications. Had breakfast with all former school board members and very successful tour. CCBA meeting, board presented to them.
- e. Next school board election is in April. Next filing starts in January. There will be one, one-year term, and two full terms.

6. Treasurer's Report (Jessica Graetz)

- a. We are still collecting PTO dues. Money going out for corporate matching. Collected \$2100 for food and essentials drive. Currently housing holiday gift card piece.
- b. District-wide Canva account. Will create a folder for each school.

7. Old Business

- a. Homecoming: Donuts before parade. We didn't make any money. Moving forward donuts on homecoming are not worth continuing. Up to PTO council to determine whether or not they want to continue back to school bash or not. Hat making machine was very popular and made money.

8. Group Discussion

a. Best Practices:

- i. Have spirit wear available at events.
- ii. Wydown has a pumpkin decorating contest. Lesson learned: people like sending money vs. bringing something physical.
- iii. Give people options to give donations for other families that need them in order to participate.
- iv. Zoom- make it accessible. It's an equity issue in that it makes it possible for people to come and participate. May be worth PTO council to have a district-wide zoom account.
- v. Glenridge has moved PTO meeting to before pickup. It's helped with involvement and keeping the meetings on time. Lunch hour has been a success for the high school.

b. Concerns

- i. Meramac is struggling with Wagner for school pictures- product, timing, communications. Etc.

9. Adjourn meeting adjourned at 1:13PM