

Elm School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: March 15, 2016 from 1:45-3 p.m.

Attendees: Trista Negele, Hala Hindi, Jen Donnan, Erin Doppke, Dawn Wood, Jill Berry, Jacqui Parrillo, Jeana Considine, Monica Guttman, Julie Bryant, Natalia Alum, Jen McCarthy

Location: Elm School

Call to Order by Trista Negele (President Elect)

President/President Elect Report-Trista Negele

- Last presidents meeting
 - Meeting focused on CHMS, which is being voted on today
 - Prospect school brings in artists and gets a lot of grants. Do we want to up the budget for Fine Arts Night? It targets all the grades.
 - Ms. Considine exploring possible artist in residence. One thing they did was a mobile sculpture. Pursuing to see if that might be of interest
 - Mosaic in Elm entrance and the hallway sculpture were done as part of this. It hasn't been done in a long time so might be worth doing again
 - Approval of technology: will have a whole presentation around community. Will be given to PTO presidents so will get more info
 - Feb 18th: PTO smart board approved by majority
 - Ms. Considine has ordered and we had enough for 2 smart boards. In music room and learning lab.

Treasurer-Jen Donnan

- 5th grade year end activities
 - 64 students will get t-shirts and they really like them
 - Shirts were redone last year and cost for shirts was lower last year then year before
 - Have been doing t-shirts for 3 years
 - Custom screen printed shirt with front and back
 - Over budget so needs to be voted on and approved
- Destination Imagination: collected \$350. Will follow up with Meeta Patel to see where that money goes as it hasn't been paid out yet

- Monroe did their own because they were late. They may compete next year
- See if we can get pic of kids for Hinsdalean
-
- **Artsonia:** work to advertise more. remind parents that they are there for purchase and that 15% goes back to the school

Principal's Report - Ms Considine:

- 1 school 1 book
- Washington DC
- Lots of projects and activities start after Spring Break
 - first week back, 3rd-5th MAP testing
 - 2nd week back, 2nd graders
 - Our kids will be doing 1 extra ELA test (4 total) in grades 3-5. Will be one time this year and then won't have to do for several years after.
-
- Election glitch: Ballots were handed out that didn't include the HMS referendum question. In order to fix this, an email went out to community and Judges were called. Not able to do anything about those that already voted.
 - The people handing out ballots weren't aware that it wasn't included on the ballot. Happened in more than 1 location as they were not aware that there was a difference in the ballots

MRC Director - Jill Berry:

- Thanks to PTO for money for the books
- Author visit funded by PTO on Friday for 3-5th grades. Presented at 9:15 to 3-4 graders and at 10 to 5th grade
- Axis 360: download app
 - paper will go out Friday with child's individual username/password

Art Awareness

- Lisa Pomeroy: Co-chair
- Google doc to share with teachers at Elm
 - 2 presentations for each grade unless you are in 5th. 5th gets presentation each month from Oct-May. Done in the Spanish class.
 - Video Skype: asked for questions and has been done last year.
 - Looking for volunteers. Volunteers read (no research needed). They present to classes.
 - Presenting this week and more coming.

- Need more volunteers in the younger grades. K, 1-3. If we know of anyone interested in reading let committee know. The kids love the presentations and ask lots of questions.
- Lots of materials in the closet. Revamped the curriculum and clean out the closet. Organize so that the volunteer can take out the grade portfolio to make it easy. They are in the process of doing this now. Hoping to be done by April/ May.
- Need additional budget. Used money for big portfolios. Usually buy from art.com. Will provide estimate. Budget is \$300. Have paid \$470 for portfolios. Already over by \$170. Will discuss at budget meeting. Can increase the budget for next year and buy July 1. Also an opportunity to save art posters for rummage sale

Fundraiser

- Website will be up and running tomorrow. Info will be included on how to online bid(no paper. it will all be on our smart phone), buy tickets, what event will entail, etc.
- Hoping to raise 3x the money that we have in the past with online bidding. You can bid up to a week prior.
 - Need more sponsorships
 - Need more wine and spirits for the barrel of booze and wine bar
 - Waiting to hear from 2 teachers about teacher auction items for bid. Will money go back to teachers for these donations? In past years, the teachers were able to get raz kids for other students.
 - Can think about if we give to teachers again this year: \$2360 brought in, \$1709 spent.
 - Idea for fundraiser is to auction off for a parent to fly a flag of their alma mater on the school flag pole.

Trista Negele

- Eagerly looking for help for most every part of PTO
 - Special lunch is filled. Looking for long term commitment.
 - Ideas to spread the word: Send in bowser notes. Do a sign up genius. Suggest for chair and for volunteer. Put in who has already signed up so everyone can see who is doing
 - Dawn, Patra Dunn and Erin Golan: co-chair rummage sale
 - 3 art projects to sell at action. really neat
 - Notion for approval of feb mins, to use 5th grade for increase of budget for \$300, increase art awareness budget for \$500. Approved

Jen Donnan

- Need holiday photos for yearbook. Deadline for parents to do online pages

Meeting adjourned