**General PTA Meeting Minutes**

**December 7, 2023**

**9:30am, Google Meet**

Becky Thorn called the meeting to order at 9:33am

Executive Board Attendees: Becky Thorn, Eileen Siddiqi, Amy Gunderson

General Attendees: Rachel Witkowski, Jason Thorn, Stephanie Greenwald, Kristina Guerrero, Kelly Moscickis, Danielle Weston, Meagan Basler

Welcome

Thank You!

* Bingo Night – lots of fun for all who attended, thanks to Tanya Hack for shopping for the prizes, kids got lots of extra prizes since not everyone who RSVPed attended the event
* Parent-Teacher Conferences Donations – thanks to everyone who donated and thanks to Catherine Smith for organizing

Fundraiser Updates:

* Little Italian West Pizza Night- $80 raised, consider moving earlier in the fall for a better turnout, Danielle to follow up with the owner to confirm the amount
* Panera, Noodles, Sky Zone and more coming up in 2024

Mutual Ground Drive Update

* We had lots of donations, thank you! Box was overflowing
* Drive is now over and donations will be delivered to Mutual Ground

Restaurant Night- Chop’d (12/11)

* Join us for dine in or carry out on 12/11!

Watch D.O.G.S. (12/15)

* No spots left to volunteer, have had a great turnout from dads

Gift Crowd Staff Gifts

* Option to donate to all teachers and staff for the holidays, can include a message from your student along with a monetary donation that is compiled with all other donations, teachers and staff then receive a lump sum gift card from all of the money that was given to them

Winter Parties (12/22)

* Still need more volunteers in 2K, 5V

Staff Holiday Lunch (12/22)

* Olive Garden soup, salad and breadsticks will be served to the teachers as a send-off for winter break

Cultural Night (1/25, 6-8pm, Graham Gym/MPR)

* Sending a flyer via backpack mail no later than early next week
* Hoping to receive more sign-ups for participation
* Planning committee is in full swing
* Mrs. Witkowski to announce Cultural Night on morning announcements and include in News from the Nest
* Mrs. Bailey (ELL) will communicate with teachers to encourage participation
* Consider starting earlier with performances so more people can attend

Update from Principal Witkowski

* Shared a big thank you for the conference meal and all of the water and snacks
* Our next Falcon Family Picnic is coming up on 12/19
* Holiday spirit week will be coming up the last week before break – look for more information via e-mail
* Mrs. Shiles has put on an amazing week celebrating computer science with Hour of Code, thanks to all of the efforts and the helpful volunteers

Fifth Grade Farewell

* Looking into Ultimate Ninjas for the outing for this celebration
* Last picnic will likely be a pizza party

Speaker, Laurie Donahue, IPSD 204 School Board President

* Graham’s representative for this school year
* Thanks to the PTA for all of the work and activities we run!
* Exciting to be part of Hour of Code and to watch the kids experience computer science
* Boundary Changes: No plans to change any boundaries at all. For the past boundary change, there were many developments on the north side of the district that turned into residential, so they had to balance the overpopulated north schools with the underpopulated schools in the southern area of the district.
* Enrollment Projections: ELL has grown phenomenally in the district. One of the schools had 100 new ELL learners without any English knowledge. Highest volume of ELL learners are from Russia currently. Projections are still very accurate (99% accurate for the year), Graham is projecting 10 students under (318 was projection, 310 is our current student population).
* Project Arrow: Have a RFP out for different companies due 1/23. Looking at best practices around the country and in our district to help with consistency across schools. Expect to have the result of the study by the end of this school year.
* Crone Class Sizes: Use the same strategy across all 7 middle schools for class sizes. They use the same criteria across all classes, so can be challenging when you’re on the edge of the maximum for class size. Can’t create smaller classes just to create smaller classes. Laurie to follow up on population of kids who qualify for PA at Crone compared to other middle schools in the district.
* Facility Study: Hoping to approve at the next board meeting. If approved, that will be the plan for the next 5 years to make improvements in schools to support students better. Maintenance has been put off for the last several years due to budget constraints, so trying to catch up now.

Save The Dates:

* Next COMMITTEE CHAIR PTA Meeting- 01/11/24 @ 9:30am on Google Meet
  + <https://meet.google.com/umu-dhoj-wam>
  + This meeting is for Committee Chairs only to discuss second half of the year
* Next general PTA meeting will be in February

Closing

Meeting adjourned at 10:03am