



Martensdale-St. Mary's School District
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Minutes of the PTO meeting September 21, 2021

Attendees:

Megan Appell, Becky Deitenback, Katie Eads, Trudy Eaton, Wendi Eckelberg, Colleen Krogman, Erin McCullough, Gaby Palmer, Joni Rezac, Lisa Roetman, Jen Troll, Erin VanWaus, Lori Vodraska, Dana Yonker

I. **Welcome 2021-2022 PTO Goal:**

Jen Troll (President) welcomed the group. Reinforced the goal for 2021-2022 is recruitment / involvement – exciting to see good attendance again. The success of PTO is dependent on parents' involvement.

II. **Principal's Report**

Ms. Happe was unable to attend, but submitted a report delivered by Jen.

• **Elementary updates:**

- Students completing FastBridge screening in the areas of literacy and math. Data from this screening is helpful in determining if a student needs an intervention in a particular skill area. It also tells us how we are doing as a school. Our goal is to have 80% of students achieving at a level of 80% proficiency. Last spring we ended the year at 74% schoolwide in the area of literacy. Given lost time with Covid, the growth from fall to spring was strong.
- Homecoming week - students are enjoying dress up days this week.
- Thursday evening activities:
 - Postprom food truck fundraiser
 - 6:00 p.m. Homecoming Court Coronation (stadium)
 - 6:30 p.m. Homecoming parade
 - 7:00 p.m. Ironman volleyball (HS gym)
 - 7:45 p.m. Powderpuff Football (Stadium)
- Shuttles available between school parking lot and stadium. No parking will be available at the stadium as it will be the staging area for the parade.

- **Concrete / shade structure:** One bid has been received for \$6K for the concrete. Ms. Happe met with committee leads Wendi Eckelberg and Erin VanWaus to discuss details and possibilities. Preferred placement is the area adjacent to existing cement. One tree may need to be removed. It was suggested to explore whether we can move it. Attendees were in favor of exploring more trees regardless of whether this one could be moved or would need to be taken down.

- *Discussed fundraising approach for this – notes found in New Business section.*

- **Bottled water** – For students who forget to bring their own water bottled, there is water available. Teachers have cups available. PTO could also consider donating bottled water, but we would need to do this in small quantities due to limited storage.

III. Treasurer's Report

Lisa Roetman (Treasurer) delivered the Treasurer's report.

- An updated budget was shared with the group based on discussion from our prior meeting.
- No new treasurers report available given it has been less than a month since we last met.

IV. New Business

The group discussed the following efforts:

- a. **Homecoming parade participation:** Determined we will not participate given there were only two days between this meeting and the parade. Group didn't feel that was enough time to get something organized. We'll consider this again next year.
- b. **Community Day: Saturday September 25 – Colleen Krogman and Brenda Jagerson** coordinating. Colleen reported good progress has been made since our last meeting. We'll be serving hamburgers and hotdogs from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. PTO receives all proceeds from the food sales. Fareway is donating several items including buns, 500 bottles of water, and has reduced the price of the hamburgers to \$.99/each.
 - Colleen presented a request for \$900 to purchase the food and supplies needed. Erin McCullough motioned to approve the expense, Jen Troll seconded.
 - Volunteers are still needed.
- c. **Trunk or Treat – Gaby Palmer** coordinating and delivered the report. The city council meeting to determine Beggars Night date is happening this week. They are proposing October 30. We'll align our event to the Beggar's Night date. Our event will likely be 3:30-5:30 p.m., assuming Beggars Night remains 6-8 p.m. Gaby has several other ideas for how to get students and parents involved, including a painted pumpkin contest, Halloween photo booth, and a bake sale.
- d. **Outdoor structure update: Wendi Eckelberg, Erin VanWaus, and Lori Vodraska** are coordinating this effort. Erin and Lori delivered the update.
 - Erin shared meeting with Ms. Happe was productive. The school is supportive of this project and would like to put the cement in this fall. As noted above, a location adjacent to the current cement was proposed.
 - They also discussed donor recognition. The committee considered a plaque or some type of permanent recognition for significant donors, but concluded this would add costs to the project. Current recommendation is that once the structure is complete, we'll host a community event / ribbon cutting ceremony and create a banner recognizing donors (likely \$250+) for this event.
 - The fundraising approach was also discussed. In the fall, there is typically some fundraising for annual needs, such as teacher requests, teacher and

staff recognition / appreciation, field trip costs, etc. Discussion centered around whether we should 1) focus only on the structure this fall or 2) combine the usual fall fundraiser (un-fundraiser) and the structure campaigns. Good discussion was held by the group. Trudy Eaton is leading fundraising. She will connect with Lori and they'll determine a go-forward approach based on the discussion.

- e. **Carnival:** This event is led by **Dana Yonker**. Dana delivered the report. She is currently recruiting volunteers for the event. It's typically our largest event and requires volunteers to lead sub-committees. Some volunteers from last year are returning, but Dana will be recruiting some new volunteers as well. We are planning for a spring carnival.
- f. **Bulletin Board:** There is a bulletin board in the elementary hallway dedicated to PTO happenings. Jen suggested we consider updating this for the fall. She will contact Kristina Whitely who did the last update. Determined we'll try to change it seasonally and that we may need to consider setting a small budget for supplies for this.
- g. **Ice cream:** Some kids are unable to have ice cream due to overdue lunch accounts. The PTO may consider making a donation to cover ice cream for those students. Jen will follow up with the school to determine if we can get an estimated cost for this.
- h. **QR code:** Trudy has created one for our Facebook page. Anyone working on promotional materials can use this.
- i. **Venmo/VisiPay account:** As we're gearing up for fundraising, there have been discussions around whether we can use an alternative payment such as Venmo. Lisa has been researching and is connecting with other groups who use these. We may need to use PayPal or other solution as Venmo's website states it is not set up for charitable campaigns. We'll continue exploring this.

V. Old Business

- a. PTO presentation to Teachers: Jen presented to the teachers on Sept. 9 to give them an overview of the PTO and share the change re: teacher requests shall be presented in-person at the monthly meetings.
- b. PTO booth at the football game: Dana Yonker organized this and reported it was a success. Face painting (courtesy of Mrs. Twadell and volunteer art students) along with tattoos were available for free for students. It was well received, and many students participated. We were not collecting donations, but still received \$12 in goodwill donations.
- c. Die Cut machine – this topic remains in progress. Ms. Happe is getting more details on the specific need for this and will be circling back.
- d. Amazon wish lists from teachers – a few teachers have competed these, are hoping this will grow organically now that a few have done it and will share with others.
- e. Survey/results for back-to-school supply boxes – Katie Eads reported this is in progress.

VI. Open Items

- a. Fundraiser participation with 4 Seasons Norwalk: Jen met with them and they have fundraisers we could do now, but we determined we'll hold on this effort.
- b. Book Fair: Working to get the library to take this over, this is still in progress.
- c. Field trip donations: Last meeting we discussed increasing the field trip donation to \$15/student, but did not take a vote. Jen presented this to the group for a vote.
 - i. Colleen Krogman motioned to approve increasing the amount to \$15, Becky Dietenback seconded.
- d. Fundraiser Committee-looking for chair? Trudy Eaton /Katie Eads reported on their recent efforts around fundraising.
 - i. Trudy presented the group with a list of the planned fundraisers, along with a few new and proposed ideas. The goal of this work is to review activities and see how we're balancing our goals of raising funds with the other goal of providing opportunities for family activities.
 - 1. Erin VanWaus volunteered to look into a spring family event such as roller skating. will do roller skating. Another new idea is to do class tshirts or a tshirt contest.
 - 2. Some new ideas mentioned were a Redneck Gala (this would be the silent auction that was extracted from the carnival) and driveway painting.
 - 3. The group was supportive of the efforts – we'll continue looking for volunteers where needed.

VII. Teacher Requests

- a. Mrs. Webster's request for fund to support a field trip to Howell's was approved last meeting. Lisa reported the payment had been made.

VIII. Adjournment.

The next meeting was tentatively set for **Oct. 19 at 6:00 p.m.** The meeting was adjourned.