

Meadowbrook PTO Meeting

October 13th, 2021 / 9:00 AM / ZOOM Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:01 AM

Attendees

Kathy McNamara, Lorena Stevenson, Christina Anderson, Laura Jaeger, Kerry Green, Carron DeGrass, Emily Hoesly, Erin Dineen, Daya Levin, Shirley Singh, Lisa Raju, Danielle Kleinhans, Gulay Degertekin, Erin Modjeski, Effie Losiotos, Jonna Reilly, Madelyn/Blaire

Agenda

Principal's Report (Lorena Stevenson):

- Excited about Halloween parties and we can have two vaccinated parents volunteer for each classroom
- There is no parade this year
- There will be a modified version of the holiday performance; students in grades 1-4 may do two songs per class, live-streamed on the school's YouTube channel. Pat still has to talk with the music teachers and the other schools.
- Kindergarten and 5th grade will do something different
- Pat will still be doing the newsletters (surgery was yesterday) and plans on returning by 11/8 and may make an appearance for halloween
- Helena Vena starts 10/14 as substitute principal until he returns

President's Report (Kathy McNamara & Lorena Stevenson):

- PTO Council Update
 - District will continue doing the dashboard instead of the emails to be make data available at any time
 - Travel guidance has changed; no quarantine after domestic travel to orange state but have to test 3-5 days after returning. No change to international travel but may change as state, county, and federal guidelines change
 - Superintendent search is ongoing
 - Surveys due 10/14; focus groups completed
 - Interviews 10/27-11/8
 - Hoping for selection by end of year
 - Current and new superintendent will begin MB principal search as first order of business
 - Hoping to do Cheers to 28 fundraiser in spring, probably outside. Looking for committee chairs and volunteers
 - Also looking for chairs for HOH

- Music club is doing wreath sales
- District programming on 11/8, motivational speaker BMX Biker
- Everyone is invited to attend PTO council meetings (held over Zoom). Cari Raymond (PTO Council president) may be joining one of our PTO meetings to build collaboration across schools

Treasurer's Report (Emily Hoesly):

- Thank you to all the families who participated in the fundraising
- The Grill House funds went to the library for new books
- Looking to do more community outreach with the funds coming in + spoiling the teachers
- Delivered a basket and meals to Mr. Thome for the next two weeks
 - If there are more cards for Mr. Thome, turn them into the office and Annie will give them to the PTO to mail them
- Money is still coming in from the hassle-free fundraiser, dues, and birthday signs
- Raised \$1800 from school supplies and \$1500 from special lunch from August-September

Communication Secretary's Report (Christina Anderson): Nothing to report

VP of Programming's Report (Caryn Chalmers): Not in attendance

VP of Fundraising's Report (Laura Jaeger):

- Birthday signs are going great -- 25 orders/month, 12 volunteers. Volunteers are signing up monthly instead of for the whole year, which is working well. ~200 orders for the school year
- September fundraiser - Grill House - 52 orders from different families raising ~\$300 donation
- October - Nothing Bundt Cakes - approx. 600 bundtlet orders from 90 students, enough to treat all staff and teachers; working out logistics now for 10/22 delivery. Will be delivered sorted by flavor and will need to sort by classroom/student and figuring out distribution. Laura will be emailing the general volunteer pool for help with sorting and distribution; will probably need around a dozen volunteers. Volunteers will need to send Annie proof of vaccination prior to volunteering.
- November - had been considering DwellSocial proposal but are putting that on hold and exploring local restaurant options
- December - will likely skip given holidays and break and should be ok with budget
- We're on target to meet our fundraising goals
- Lisa Raju:
 - Giftcard plus is coming out next week for the first sale; trying to move it from paper to Google Form

- Bundt cakes - print labels for each kid plus list for each class, label each bundt cake, deliver whole class to teacher to distribute. 4-6 may be better than 12 volunteers.

VP of Room Parent's Report (Erin Dineen):

- Erin will send out a "last call" for any cards and will mail them in
- Parents are very excited to volunteer for Halloween parties
- There have been some get-togethers, moms' nights out and class get-togethers

Recording Secretary's Report (Kate Sweas):

- Nothing to report

Committee Reports

- **Yearbook** (Kathy McNamara) -
 - There's been discussion about doing a mini-yearbook for grades k-4 like the principal's book that Pat usually gets, i.e., a photo of each class and teachers
 - Would be \$13.50/principal's book
 - More traditional yearbook would be \$15.33/book
 - Learning towards the basic principal's book; no questions or comments
 - Open question if we sell as a fundraiser, subsidize with PTO funds; suggestion to just sell at cost, not subsidize or fundraise
 - For new families, it could be nice who haven't seen other kids without masks
 - May just be a one-time event, not ongoing
 - Consensus seems to be the basic book since the more robust book is a lot of work and we've had trouble getting volunteers, try for a year and see how it goes. Suggestion to include letter from Mr. Thome
- **New Families** (Shirley Singh)
 - We continue to have new families
 - One new family this month; new families are greeted with an email and a yard sign
 - There are historically new families transferring over winter break
- **Spirit Wear** (Lorena Stevenson)
 - Orders being distributed yesterday/today
 - \$8k worth of merchandise; no numbers yet on profit
 - Jodi Levin and Jenn Loewy are done after this year; looking for volunteers for someone who just wants to volunteer a couple of times a year
 - It's well-established and organized

- Feedback? Materials and design seem to be going over well
- **Book Fair** (Lorena Stevenson)
 - We weren't able to do it in fall
 - Exploring possibility of doing the book fair in February
 - Potential for in-person if kids are vaccinated by then
- **Gift Card Plus** (Lisa Raju)
 - Q re: where the funds go -- it's PTO Council, not specifically Meadowbrook, e.g., Matt Wilhelm (speaker); gives money back to individual school PTOs; donation to HOH fundraiser; scholarships, e.g., to children's services of Glenview/Northbrook; donation to CATCH. This is the only fundraiser for the PTO Council.
- **HOH** (Lisa Raju)
 - New food delivery service, Fresh Midwest, started by the same guys who ran Peapod. It will start to come out from Terry Ryan and the Friday newsletters. Groceries and prepared foods are available, and partner with local restaurants, e.g., Wildfire and Hot Box Sushi. There will be a promo code for \$25 off purchase and HOH will get \$25 off initial purchase and 3% of purchases ongoing

Questions

- What's the status of Pizza Day?
 - Dr. Hewitt doesn't support this until there are more vaccinations and/or how safe it is for more people to be inside the schools. It's not profitable for us unless we can divide up the boxes into individual slices.
- Programming - is there anything we can do offsite or otherwise?
 - Recent requests for events have been denied or postponed
 - The balloon toss was a positive sign - open to ideas still
 - It depends on if the district and school feel like it's safe
 - Any events would probably have to not be associated with the district; in the past, there would be get-togethers when school is closed, e.g., Rockin' Jump

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:57 A.M.

Upcoming Events:

October 14th: Early dismissal; parent-teacher conferences

October 15th:	No school
October 26th:	D28 Board of Education Meeting, 7 pm
October 29th:	Meadowbrook class Halloween parties
November 9th:	D28 PTO Council meeting, 9am
November 10th:	November PTO meeting, 9am
November 12th:	Spirit Day - Pajama Day