

## Thornell Road PTSA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 2, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, Gina Brown

Attendees: Gina Brown, Ellen Whitiker (sp), Kristen Bergholtz, Rachel Nichols, Andrea True, Michelle Riecks, Geoffrey Silkey, Roger DiBell

### Principal Report - Mr. DiBell:

- Thank you to everyone for attending
- Welcome to Gina and thank you to Kim for her service
- Thank PTSA for generous donation of funding for the maker space in the library.
  - Maker space is something where students can go, dedicated area connected to the library, kids get hands on experience with high tech, lo tech, no tech – STEAM tops. Mrs. Autovino had an interest in this and the vision is almost full reality. Will be up and running fully in September, some things are operational now and they will continue to add through the rest of this year. Kids will have opportunities to come down in small groups or as individuals, coordinate w/ teacher to use the space. \*\*EBLAST ITEM
  - Tom Piloizzi – custodian/artist will be helping to make the space
  - Saturday May 11 – district has hosted a “kicks for campers” fund raiser to raise money to send kids to Camp Cory. Last year 5<sup>th</sup> grade was invited and they are invited again this year. They need a point person to help coordinate this. Kristin did respond and volunteer she doesn’t know what her role is yet but she has been in touch with Jean Strazzabasco.
    - Help coordinate team sign ups,
    - find coach,
    - ticket sales
    - 5:00 – 8:30 PM on May 11
  - ILT – after school enrichment protocols:
    - Dismissal time for school is 3:05. Teachers will close the doors, some parents are going in and grabbing kids for after school enrichment. Need a reminder for parents to wait until the teacher sends the kids out into the hall. Teachers can organize the kids into a group before sending them all together to their activity. Dial 1700 to main office to call if someone is absent that day.
    - K-1 still would get a parent escort, older students can walk to activity themselves.
    - Ivana did send communication out to organizers of after school activity to inform them.
    - Teacher lists do not show the location of where the classes are being held. They have a list of kids who are signed up for a class but not where they are being held.

- Classroom management and behavior issues have been brought to Gina's attention and she has been coordinating with the organizations that have brought students in.

#### Chair Report – Gina Brown:

- Welcome & Introductions around the table
- Spirit Wear – sale going on now, super short window because of the break. May do another one after February break. Tom Pilizzi create the logo for the spirit wear, this is a new design.
- Deadline to order yearbooks has past but we will order some extras. Gina asked if there may be any students that may have wanted one and couldn't get them. Mr. DiBell will keep an eye out for any conversations. Should not be a problem to give the extras to fifth graders if we had any.
- Gina has been trying to attend district meetings
  - Shana spoke about Inclusivity Meeting = combination of diversity and inclusion. District wide initiative.
    - Shared a book: ~~Tell~~ Teach Me Your Name culturally significant but not just based on culture.
    - Little girl w/ difficult name and she goes through country to learn the importance of her name. Learns confidence in her name and who she is.
    - Library does a book a day program – Gina suggested maybe PTSA could buy some of these books and have them available to students.
    - There is some money Library Brown Bag book club – Mrs. Autovino hasn't specified what this \$\$ would be used for. This is a possibility. There are other funds that could also drawn from.
  - TRE has three staff reps on the district inclusivity meetings.
- Chairs – sat a talked about things that are going on.
  - Park Rd & Mendon Center – possibly having collaborative PTSA meetings to get together.
  - Something specific to 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents to talk about the transition from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, how things are different what to expect. Lessons learned and shared.
  - Park Road – revamping lunch programs, bringing healthier food options, funding through farms. Not too many details are available on this yet.
- PTSA Liaison
  - Robin & Kim are the co-chairs of the entire PTSA to discuss struggles. Through the directory parents make the choice to be included in the directory and that also gives permission for the PTSA to serve as liaison. Gina contacted people from each grade to serve as the point person. We don't want it to be a burden on the parents but we also want to utilize the role to reach out to parents who are on the list.
  - Emails were was sent out re: yearbooks and visiting author.
  - We are still looking for someone to take over the Drama program for next year.
  - Fundraising:
    - Box Tops
      - Looking for someone to run this next year.
      - We make about \$1000/ year and we are right on track. (Total income from the year is \$6000) Challenge is that they don't offer the box tops

on as many items as they have in the past. Not on Wegmans products, Trader Joe's etc.

- Restaurant Fundraisers – Tom Wahl's only gives back 15%; Moe's, Chipotle has higher %.
- My School Anywhere is where we get the directory. They offer online directory, other schools are utilizing this service and we may want to consider. We can contact through it, there is an app that can be on your phone. Parents have to opt in to the app part the directory.
  - This could be started now.
  - You can see other schools that
  - You can have sign ups on the program. There is a social media aspect of the service.
- International Day – there is a teacher looking for currency from other countries. Looking for donations. \*\*EBLAST ITEMS – Friday, June 7, 9:00 – 12:00 kids travel from room to room, assembly in the afternoon.
- Reindeer Lane –
  - great volunteers, Gina was sort of thrown in.
  - there was a lot of "Christmasy" items. Also, based on the timing many of the "gift-giving" holidays happened before Reindeer Lane happened. We could use our own marketing, not Reindeer Lane name - The intention of the shop is appreciated by the parents. Next year calendar works well, 2020 not so much.
  - Made about \$400

#### Treasurer Report:

- 60000-7000 is our standard. The District PTSA does not like us to have too much of a surplus. We are working down surplus. Trying to keep about ½ of our budget on-hand. Annual expenses usually around \$14,000. We are close to running net zero. In the last 5 -6 year history we haven't done too much formal fundraising because of the surplus. Basket bonanza is the biggest fund raiser that we do. Raffle ticket sales were the same last year – PTSA bought all baskets. Year before parents had to fund the baskets and there were negative responses about having to donate to the basket and then have to buy the raffle tickets. If we start earlier, around March, to collect donations from businesses that would work. Classrooms like doing the themes. Last year parents were given option to donate and pretty much no one made a donation. We don't have the right format yet.

Usually June 7 – try to avoid community events. Buy-one Get-one book fair runs simultaneously.

Last year we had option of offering full pizzas which went well. Food trucks year before had long lines.

We have \$500 allocated for 3D printer and other supplies for the maker space. Need to start investigating.

There are a lot of legos from the Lego club which will be loaned to the maker space with the understanding that if lego club comes back they would need to be used.

There is \$7000 in the field trip/experience budget line. There should be enough for all requests that have been received. In the past it has been at \$4000, the additional \$3000 came from the "gifts to school" budget. If we think that level of field trip needs we can reevaluate the needs. At the district level they can look at their allocations, we don't think that any money was allocated for kindergarten field trips this year.

- Budget ITEM– Emma is at the middle school, sister Ella is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade has offered a scholarship for Drama. The funds came out of the "other" budget. Vote was taken to approve that donation.

#### Science Action:

- Rachel has received some feedback about people's experience in the past. Need to define what the role would be.
- Rachel emailed all of the lead teachers and received a lot of feedback.
- Room outside of classroom, rotate grades through the room.
- Kindergarten science action is independent. This has been successful in kindergarten but hasn't been carried through to higher grades. Nothing else has been done in the last few years.
- Estimated that we need four volunteers – one per grade to lead one or two labs throughout the year.
- K-3 because 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> Science is part of the curriculum. We need to do some background work and research on what other schools are doing and get feedback from the teachers to see what the need is.
- Timeline really needs to be finalized by June so that teachers can incorporate into their plans for the year and signups could be ready at orientation at the start of the year.
- Idea to host a STEM night – PTSA event, we will do the stations, fund raiser, could be a feeder event to get volunteers.

#### Eblast:

- Highlight things happening around the school
- STAR newsletter – it is put together by a PTSA volunteer.
- Need to figure out where the messaging crosses over.
- Still need to focus on content, make people aware that they can submit news for inclusion on the PTSA website.

Website:

- In the process of reviewing what is active, needs to be updated.
- Can be reviewed piece-mail as we find things to be corrected and it also needs
- If you are on the TRE website and you click the PTSA link it needs to be re-routed to the TRE PTSA website rather than the district page.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM