

PTO Meeting January 11, 2012

Officers in attendance: Lisa Kerrigan, Leslie Donahue, Shelly Towler and Christina Koninis

Other speakers present: Ms. Lilli Fendell, Mrs. Ansley, Jen Ballas and Kate Klemas

Head Count ~26

Important Dates:

January 16 MLK Jr. Day, school closed
January 19 Spring Fling Meeting at Cosi in Greenville at 6:30 pm, all welcome
February 6 In-Service Day, school closed

Action Items:

- Jen B: * WEBSITE Updates (1) Add staff e-mail addresses, (2) add Family Fun flyer when available
- Shelly T: * Newsletter additions/changes: change library contact for volunteers to Mrs. Parmer, request volunteer to create directory.
 * Add/Change Volunteer form with directory request info.
- Leslie D: * Re-vamp Pizza/PBS volunteer form to include timeslots and work alone. Think about the "partner pool" idea
- F. Ansley: * Create a committee of teachers from each grade to determine how to spend the Scholastic Book monies earned to date.
- Lilli F: * Confirm whether or not DCAS scores from the second graders are shared with the parents. If yes, by whom, state or teachers.
- Christina K: * Confirm by next meeting that First Data did not charge us for 2 months in 2011 for the rental of the cc swipe machines. If we were charged twice, seek reimbursement. (Only one charge was worked out with First Data by Chris Kleinstuber).

Key Points:

- Leslie D: * Read Suggestion Box comments and responded to them.
1. Parent suggested that we have the annual concert in the evening instead of during the day. **RESPONSE:** The school would like everyone to be able to attend the concert and feels holding it during the day is the best choice. Also concerned about Fire Code.
PTO RESPONSE: Parents like the idea of having the concert in the evening and we will not dismiss the suggestion. Perhaps when in a new building it can be revisited.
 2. Parent requested an OCS Student Directory. We did one for the 2009-10 school year, very large undertaking by Jen Ballas; but very well received. Need permission from all parents to use their data.
SUGGESTIONS: (1) send email in a particular format and then do the data entry, (2) consider using Google docs, (3) Create a PTO directory – Going forward we will have all information for the directory on the sign-up sheet with a box for parents to "check" if they wish to share their information in a directory.

PTO RESPONSE: Only if someone is willing to volunteer to put it together. No one on the officer's committee is able to commit to the undertaking. Going forward, we will info gather on the volunteer form and create a directory from that form.

* PBS Cart and Pizza Friday volunteers are in better shape for the second half of the year. Two parents on for Pizza and PBS for a total of 4 volunteers every Friday at the Lower School.

SUGGESTIONS: (1) Breakdown request into time slots instead of just Friday blocks, (2) Re-vamp the sign-up sheet to be more specific (i.e. time slots, can work alone, etc.), (3) Create a "partner pool" where the parents can team up on their own to work a Pizza Friday or PBS Cart and determine their time slots among themselves and report back to Jo-el F.

- Mrs. Ansley:
- * The PBS Committee met and they will be re-vamping the PBS cart program to make it less intrusive on the classrooms and to require less volunteers.
 - * Mrs. Ansley with Mrs. Parmer are heading the purchase of books from Follett. OCS library will be receiving 1,200 new titles that will be shelf ready (out of box and onto library shelf, data uploaded off of disc). Books should arrive in mid-February. Volunteers still welcome, contact Mrs. Parmer.
 - * Carts have been purchased and more shelving may be needed in the library to house the books and assist in the functioning of the library for use school-wide. Books will be able to be "borrowed" by reserving online. The books will then be transported to the student(s) who ordered them, both in Upper and Lower schools.
- Christina K:
- * Went through some line items on the expense report created. Still a work in progress.
- Shelly T:
- * A Family Fun Night will be held at the YMCA on Mt. Lebanon Rd. on February 24, 2012 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. A detailed flyer will be sent home electronically (and in folders) as well as posted on website in the beginning of February. Evening will include room(s) with crafts, healthy snacks in lobby, access to pool, 2 moon bounces, blood pressure checks and a week-long trial membership to all who sign in. All personnel needed for event will be supplied by the YMCA.
 - * Spring Fling volunteers still needed and welcomed. Next meeting is at Cosi in Greenville on Thursday, 1/19/12 at 6:30 pm.
 - * Problem with the 501C3 status EIN we have been supplying our potential donors; Jen Ballas explained that the EIN expired and is in the process of being renewed. Renewal process began in Sept, 2011. Federal government is backed up and we may not have the EIN active until the end of the school year. This creates a problem for getting donations that require the EIN.
- Jen B:
- * Spoke about renewal of EIN, see explanation above. Board understands that as a result of this issue, we may not make as much as we hoped (15K) on the Spring Fling. If we don't reach our goal, we will consider adding another fundraiser.
 - * The EIN for our 501C3 status does not affect tax filings for parents listing their daycare.
 - * No Board Meeting, closed session to work on curriculum.
 - * Several parents questioned why they did not receive communication regarding the need to withdraw plans to add 6th grade in the 2012-13 school year. A letter was sent home only to the 5th grade parents. A letter will be sent out school wide in the next few weeks.
 - * OCS' intent is to open with a 6th grade in the 2013-14 school year.
 - * Jen will be involved in a meeting with professionals scheduled at the end of the month to discuss a sports program for the 6th – 12th grades. Program is intended to be in place when 6th grade is added.
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- * Ms. Pastis and Ms. Fendell hope to work on the creation of an instrumental music program. Grade level participation not discussed.
- * A modification was presented to DOE regarding our charter. Jen was not at liberty to discuss in full, however she did stress it "was a good thing".

Lilli F:

- * Second round of DCAS was completed in December, *minus one student*. Students showed growth in all areas. Yay!!
 - * MAP testing has begun in Upper and Lower Schools
 - * Cannot compare DCAS scores and MAP score in any way. They use completely different scoring data and criteria.
 - * School is uncertain if the state provides DCAS test scores to the second grade when they take the test in the spring.
 - * Dibels testing has also begun. Dibels tests early literacy in the younger students and oral reading fluency in the older students.
- SUGGESTION:** Parents would like school-wide communication regarding testing schedule. While it is understood that teachers and staff do not want the children to stress over testing, parents would like to be informed so that they can prepare child for next day's testing (sleep, good breakfast, etc.)