



TCWES PTO – MEETING MINUTES

Board Only

August 31, 2023 | 6:37 PM – 8:04 PM | In Person

In attendance were Kate Case, Tabitha Rich, Beth Feliciano-Rivera, Jess Murray, Sandra Oviedo, Kelsey Fisher, Cooper Waterman, Tiana Marshall, Dr. Buchheit and Mrs. Yuditsky

Motion to start meeting at 6:37 pm by Tabitha Rich, seconded by Sandra Oviedo, all in favor.

PTO Updates

I. Introductions

- i. The PTO board members introduced themselves to parents and teachers in attendance.

II. Focus of the Year

- i. Focus for the school year will be teacher grants & student and classroom needs
- ii. Explained process for how teachers can submit grant requests
- iii. Goal for SEP classes is to offer increased salary to teachers

III. Spirit Nights

- i. Discussed Spirit Nights that are planned for September (ie Chipotle) and future events such as MOD Pizza, Fun cakes for Thanksgiving, etc

IV. Volunteers

- i. Explained different events that the PTO helps put together and talked about importance of having a volunteer to help lead, with PTO member assistance, such as Read-a-thon, Penguin Patch and Boosterthon
- ii. Talked about the decision to move Boosterthon to February and how slowly trying to transition to October for the following year

V. Membership & Spirit Store

- i. Current membership numbers are at 141. Hoping to get more participation during Back to School nights.
- ii. Reminder on Sept 8th deadline and what happens if don't meet minimum on certain items for them to be shipped
- iii. Hope to do a second spirit store later in the year

- iv. Teachers asked if we could send them a generic email that they can email to their parents. PTO agreed that would be a great idea

VI. Budget

- i. Reviewed the tentative budget and went through the different categories.
- ii. Current balance is \$11,000 (that includes \$2,000 in savings that we don't touch)
- iii. Went through what we hope to raise during the school year with the different spirit nights, SEP and various fundraisers.
- iv. Cooper reviewed what we project to give back to the school
- v. Have already given \$5,000 which includes Amazon gift cards to all teachers and hospitality breakfast
- vi. PTO paid for school's lunch debt from previous year so all students could start year debt free
- vii. Talked about planning to have 4 assemblies for the students this year

VII. Principal's Update

- i. Dr. Buchheit addressed the school budget and over staff issue. With current headcount budgeted for 4 KG teachers, 3.5 KG assistants and 4 First grade teachers. Currently we have 5 KG teachers and 5 first grade teachers.
- ii. With 17 less students the school will need to reduce staff. Asking the PTO for financial assistance to prevent having to reduce staff. \$15,000 would be needed now with \$18,000 to \$20,000 later in the year. This is in addition to the \$20,000 the PTO already budgeted to Principal's fund.
- iii. Mrs. Span and several teachers attended meeting to request assistance from the PTO as well. Discussed the long term effects of having to merge classes in KG and the ripple effect it will have in the future.
- iv. Teachers offered to forgo teacher grants if it meant the PTO being able to help retain KG staff.
- v. PTO board recognized detriment of merging classes and reducing staff, but expressed concern with committing to giving financial when have not yet raised the requested money and it's not guaranteed that they will have the money. Also, expressed concern that this is going to be an ongoing issue every school year that board is setting a precedent for.
- vi. Discussed what other alternatives had been explored to find the money need to retain staff, and what would happen if needed funds are not raised (no substitutes, ratio copy paper, ask for a loan from other schools)
- vii. Parents in attendance expressed support for trying to find a way to maintain full staff
- viii. PTO board said would need to review the PTO budget once more, needs to see school budget and will meet with Dr. Buchheit to discuss what can be done. Dr. Buchheit said would need decision by early following week.
- ix. By next PTO meeting a decision will be made and a budget finalized for voting.

VIII. Next Meeting

- i. October 5th – 6:30 PM – In Person at the school art room

IX. Adjournment – 8:04 PM