

Gilbert PTO Meeting
December 3, 2018
Location: Gilbert Middle School

Call to order: 7:35

Role call: Beth Richards (PTO P), Sunde Nesbit (PTO S), Emily Olson (PTO-OAL), Kirsten Martinek, Mike Danilson (MS Principal)

B. Richards welcomed everyone and called the PTO meeting to order.

Update from M. Danilson

The choir teacher at the middle school was selected by peers to conduct the statewide honors Opus choir; two children from Gilbert choir and some from band were selected. Shared some other kudos from the middle school in the recent past.

District-wide there was a safety and security meeting a couple of weeks ago; discussed implementation of safety strategies across the buildings. Next steps are how to implement trauma packs in each classroom.

Discussed utility of PTO funding mental health night. He discussed the challenge of where to place children when they need inpatient services.

Past Activities

Sigler handled the recent apparel orders. Orders were higher than anticipated and therefore delayed. The items offered were more expensive than expected. B. Richards asked for an adjustment of the prices to make the items more affordable for our families, which cut down on profit to PTO. This results in just over \$1,000 to PTO, which quite a bit less than what we have earned on past apparel fundraisers. Both Sigler and Richards have ideas on how to improve things in the future.

Movie night was a success. Mr. Danilson had some suggestions for how to utilize equipment at the middle school rather than renting the screen/sound system again. He also suggested having a “double header” with an additional (later) movie for older kids.

Discussed process of planning conference meals. It was noted that the high school was recently added, and this has created some additional challenges. Mr. Danilson expressed gratitude for the meals.

Mental Health Night was overall a success. Mr. Danilson estimated 200 people in attendance, which was somewhat less than the year before. B. Richards shared that there may be another event associated with mental health at a future teacher in-service.

The Square 1 Art fundraiser is completed. We had approximately 55% participation, which is remarkably high according to the company. Perhaps the middle school could be added in the future. Discussed some ways to incorporate that into the structure of art in the middle school.

Requests for Funds

Several 8th grade women presented a plan for creating a prairie grassland in Gilbert. Discussed proposed location at the middle school, a 516 square foot zone. Provided estimates for purchasing seed, along with various other necessary items for planting. Also presented an educational plaque for informational purposes. Discussed planning for maintenance in future. Total budget \$385. Mr. Danilson discussed the advantages of utilizing an outdoor classroom, and stated that this would be a step toward that process. Funding was approved.

Mr. Danilson also discussed request for STEM funding for the middle school. He discussed the challenges of estimating growth- 5th to 6th grade is about 10%, 6th to 7th grade is about 5%. Mr. Danilson is considering a sixth exploratory section. He reported research from comparable schools in the area, and discussed Gilbert's deficit in STEM education compared to other schools. He reported that he can probably keep the maintenance of program going; just needs help with startup cost. It is estimated \$10,000-\$15,000 to start; however, he indicated that any amount would be helpful. He relayed that he is submitting for grants in the state, and is also submitting for funding through GEF. He shared that he is still soliciting feedback from parents, and so is not finalized with his request in this meeting. However, he wanted to put it on the PTO radar in the event that he requests it in the future. B. Richards suggested that Bingo may be directed for this cause.

Mr. Danilson shared a request from A. Griffin: She is requesting an author (Julie Olson) to come in to speak to the intermediate school. She is requesting \$475 plus airfare from Salt Lake City, Utah. The visit would be in April 2019. She would speak with elementary and intermediate school. Funds were approved for this, up to \$1,000.

Current/Upcoming Activities

E. Olson is working on a flyer to go out encouraging parents to consider making a donation to the supply closet as a holiday gift idea for teachers.

Carnival is scheduled for May 4. It will be held at the intermediate school.

Next meeting is on January 7, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

It has been a struggle to find mileage club coordinators for spring 2019.

Meeting adjourned 8:53 p.m.