

Gilbert PTO Meeting

October 2, 2017

Location: Gilbert Middle School

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Role call: Beth Richards (PTO P), Erin Roche, Amanda Robinson, Molly Neal-Wong (PTO-VP), Sunde Nesbit (PTO S), Tanya Forth, Dhuha Akili, Kelly Pistilli, Emily Olson (PTO-OAL), Katie Wallace (teacher), Staci Edwards (GES principal), DeeDee Haselhoff (GES guidance counselor)

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

Update from S. Edwards:

- Discussed past literacy night, she described it as a success. She also discussed future assessment/literacy night (based on what was happening in other districts), where parents can get child FAST scores. October 17 is when this will occur. Many teachers will be there, optional for them. On the elementary website, there is a tab for literacy that are additional resources for parents.
- Also fielded questions about technology challenges (links in emails, website, etc).

D. Haselhoff presented Growth Mindset:

- Power of Mindset- Beliefs in capability and differentiating between fixed versus growth mindset. Cited Carol Dweck to discuss the impact of internal motivation, effort-based praise. Power of “yet,” and setting goals/scaffolding. Discussed John Hattie’s work relating to student achievements and “.40 hinge point.” Quality of teacher involvement in classroom leads to very large effect sizes.
- Provided resources including Train Ugly: Trevor Rogan, Class Dojo: Big Ideas, Mindshift, Edutopia, and Mrs. Haselhoff’s Pinterest board “Growth Mindset for kids”. Growth Mindset Kid for Parents was also mentioned as a good resource.
- Julia Cook (author of Bubble Gum Brain, My Mouth is a Volcano) will come to the elementary school the week prior to Thanksgiving.
- Mrs. Edwards discussed how the project-based learning incorporates a number of these ideas.

Request for Funds

- Mrs. Edwards discussed current and future updates to playground. Tiger Playhouse is already on the grounds. Had to remove tornado slide due to safety concerns. May need to request funds for playground equipment in future; will likely let kids vote on options for future equipment and then return to PTO with more specific funding request.
- League of Women Voters of Ames has requested PTO co-sponsor the “Legislative Wakeup.” It was agreed that their request was not necessarily related to the overarching goals of PTO.

Past Activities:

- E. Olson is continuing to be in contact with the school supplies company, was overall a success.

Current/Upcoming Activities:

- M. Neal-Wong discussed t-shirt orders, is working with the company to open the website live. Using Graphic Edge. Orders will be online, open for two weeks. One \$5.00 fee/order, regardless of size.
- M. Neal-Wong discussed high school conference meals, and the overall positive response from parents.
- Carnival is on October 21, 2017
- Mental Health Event will be held on October 26, 2017, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- Conference meals for remaining schools will be forthcoming.
- D. Akili discussed future Bingo event, maybe could be targeted to start fund for kids in need. Mrs. Edwards talked about an existing fund for families in need, but that resource may be depleting. It was suggested that this may be publicized, so that families can put in to assist with funding.

Meeting adjourned 8:37 pm.