

Gilbert PTO Meeting
October 3, 2016
Location: Gilbert Middle School

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Role call: Beth Richards (PTO P), Molly Neal-Wong (PTO VP), Destiny Lempiainen (PTO-T), Chris Billings (Middle School), Amy Griffin (Intermediate School), Emily Olson (PTO-OAL), Sunde Nesbit (PTO S), Erin Roche

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

C. Billings indicated that new Chromebooks have been ordered for the school and work better than previous ones. The old Chromebooks were sold and made enough to contribute to buying new ones. Some parents have expressed concern about security with technology; his perspective is to teach kids how to use (e.g., 'digital citizenship') and there are built-in firewalls and protections to reduce risk. Billings also discussed school ratings. Startschool.com ranks colleges, high school, middle schools; ranked Gilbert Middle School as best middle school in Iowa.

L. Beecher was unable to attend. He relayed to C. Billings that the 'welcome to district' video made use of the drone they purchased with funds from PTO. As of yesterday, it had 8,000 views.

PTO approved a field trip for the 4th graders to attend and Iowa Wild hockey game. The students will be given an educational activity book, tied to the standards for students to complete as the hockey game is going on. The event will be very interactive and is only \$1 per student.

A. Griffin stated that FAST testing is finished for the year. There were system problems that occurred, but it was finalized. Upcoming winter benchmarking (Jan), IA assessments (Feb, before spring break). MWA testing started at elementary school beginning this week. Griffin also stated that conferences are the Thursday and Monday before Thanksgiving break. Group conferences will be added this year for families who need to meet with their student's multiple teachers.

A discussion of Carnival logistics ensued.

The meeting adjourned 7:40 pm.