

Gilbert PTO Meeting
December 5, 2016
Location: Gilbert Middle School

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

Role call: Beth Richards (PTO P), Chris Billings (Middle School), Amy Griffin (Intermediate School), Emily Olson (PTO-OAL), Dhuha Akili, Sunde Nesbit (PTO S), Destiny Lempiainen (PTO T)

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

D. Lempiainen provided Treasury update. The officers still have more work to do with the district office to learn the software being used.

C. Billings expressed concerns about mental health because of the high suicide rates for middle school kids, eating disorders, anxiety. Resources provided by the state are very limited. Some solutions: 1) Mental health first aid (for teachers and staff); 2) Hiring a trauma expert to help train teachers in identifying symptoms for children; 3) Would like to investigate utilizing school psychologists as a “bridge” for children to get mental health treatment. B. Richards suggested bringing in a speaker (or speakers) to address the issues or even as a fun event to relieve stress - this could be as a replacement for the educational event often provided by the PTO. Another suggestion was potentially providing a documentary for educating parents. Discussed setting up activities during Mental Health Awareness Month.

A. Griffin reported that intermediate school just created a “maker’s space.” All classes participated in safety course to utilize equipment. There are various stations to help students “take a break” and have some creative building time. The school is always looking for donations of item that can be taken apart,” including electronics.

A. Griffin noted that parent-teacher conferences went well. Generally positive feedback with the new format.

The district office is looking for a new entity to take over the SCRIP program. It can no longer be run the way it has been and it’s likely the PTO will not receive a percentage of the proceeds in the future.

Requests for Funds

No requests for funds.

C. Billings questioned whether funds were being held for playground equipment at Middle School (for Eagle Scout). That was confirmed.

Past Activities

E. Olson provided results of online feedback about the carnival (20 respondents). Discussed silent auction and other key changes to be made to it in the future. Also discussed some respondents' concern relating to food/concessions; considering alternatives to the concessions stand.

B. Richards discussed directory, and discussed challenges with the opt-out option for the directory. She expressed concerns about making this available for the future, and discussed options for making information available in the future.

Conference meals were successful.

Had a presence at Holiday Shopping Boutique selling coffee, hot chocolate, and PTO shop items that were leftover from the carnival. Discussed some ideas for future with this activity.

Upcoming Activities

Shirt orders - deadline was the following day. Received very positive responses and seems to be a successful fundraiser. D. Akili mentioned that high school children she spoke to did not like hashtag; will consider for future printing.

Supply closet donation - discussed logistics of it for clarity and how teachers can be recipients.

Bingo - date is set for March 24, 2016 (Friday), around 6:00 pm at the High School. The theme is a "kindness campaign" and kids will be asked to contribute to the campaign (e.g., essays, video, poems, songs) and could be featured on the website. Band will also be there that evening. Could potentially link proceeds to student wellness.

Volunteer Opportunities

1. Spring fundraiser: E. Olson will look into round-up options in future
2. Elementary School Mileage Club Coordinator needed for spring
 - Mrs. Edwards reportedly has a couple of people that she might approach; B. Richards will follow up with it.
3. High School Conference Meal Coordinator (shadow this year to coordinate next year)

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.