**Little River K-8 PTO Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

**Attendees**:

**In-Person:** Julie Kent, Cory Hogans, Chistina Randall, Maren Schreiber, Anna Victoria Martinez, Kayley Talbert, Erin Repp, Shannon Morgan, Elizabeth Evans, Cassie Lewis, Kim Perry, Martha Camacho, Lynette Williams, Seronda Robinson, Angelica Jeter, Stephanie Robinette, Erica McRae, Paige Akin, Lesley Watson, Easley Schack

**Zoom:** Miranda Freeman, Jessica Rider, Michelle Cinherden, Michelle Rawlins, Andy Crutchfield, Rebecca Parks, Nicole Connely, Erinn Nichols

Meeting began at 6:04 pm

1. Welcome – Introduction of attendees and board members.
2. Planned PTO events for the year:

* Not Just Paper teacher shopping, PTO Membership Drive, Priority Car Line Pass Raffle, GoPlaySave Book, Silent Auction, Book Fair (Fall), Vendor Show,  Penny Wars,  Science Night, Flower Power,  Book Fair (Spring), Spring Carnival, Spirit Wear, Family Nights, Amazon Smiles, Box Tops and Shopper Loyalty, Crayons2Calculators.
* All information on http://littleriverpto.weebly.com/ for fundraiser

1. Budget:

* Budget meeting was last month to go over programs planned. Budget was sent out to last year’s PTO members for feedback.  All feedback was positive and votes in favor.
* Motion to vote on 2022 budget.  All in favor, no opposition.

1. Committee Updates:
2. Hospitality:

* Amazon wish list.
* Coffee bar and pastries were set up for the teachers, made kindergarten parent bags, back to school breakfast for teachers.
* Working on planning monthly activities.
* Giving out moon pies to teachers before first full moon with list of all full moons for the year.
* Will do apple bar in fall for teachers, Cassie will talk to an orchard to see if they will donate apples or reach out to members to provide apples.  Looking for volunteers to come in and help set up.
* Working on idea for baked potato bar for Thanksgiving.

1. GoPlaySave:

* Fundraiser starts 9/7.  This year books will go home with kids. Will email teachers to send home packets by the end of the week.
* Volunteers needed to record returned packets, books, and money. Time slots are 2:30 – 3:30.
* If parents want it to buy the book, can be purchased online.  If not, books should be returned to the school.

1. Silent Auction:

* Scheduled to start in early October, tentatively 10/1 – 10/7.
* Individuals and businesses have already donated.
* Car line passes, principle for day, teacher experiences (unbirthday party at end of school day), Mr. C will be doing something fun.
* New feature will send text if you’re out bidded.
* Need volunteers to take letter to businesses during workday to see if interested in donating to silent auction.

1. Book Fair 10/24 – 10/28:

* Last year’s book fair did over $10K in sales and we were able to give Ms. Kusz $5000 in books.  PTO gets 25% of sales in cash or can opt for 50% in book credit. Usually take cash with exception of last year.
* Proposing to set up candy booths outside (Teacher Treat or Haunted Book Fair).  10/22 would be a good day if possible. Want to do on a day that will work well for teachers.
* Weekends will not work for teachers. Will continue to discuss and figure out by October meeting.

1. Little Shops at Little River 12/10:

* So far have gotten 45 applications and 21 paid vendors.  Priority given to vendors who have donated in the past.  Majority of people are crafters with homemade things.  All vendors are donating a raffle prize.

1. Dine Out Nights Monthly:

* Zaxby’s 9/19, 10/6, 11/21, 12/13.
* Waiting for confirmation from Alpaca for 10/17.
* Working on one for Pomodoro in December.  Seeking 1-2 people to work on this committee to contact restaurants and schedule dates.

1. Spirit Wear:

* Partnership with Big Frog for spirit wear (Tshirts, sweat shirts)
* Can order directly and pay online.  Can pick up at Big Frog or at PTO meetings.

1. Crayons2Calculators:

* Four times per school year, PTO members go to warehouse and do shopping for teachers for school supplies on their wish list.
* Week before shopping dates, teachers go online and put in supply list. Shopping dates 10/25, 12/6, 3/7, 5/2 usually at 10:30.
* Need volunteers to do shopping.

1. Room Parents (Erica McCrae)

* Sent out forms today.  Before end of the month Erica will contact everyone who signs up.
* Have a website and will send that out. Will have a Zoom meeting to discuss expectations and answer any questions.
* If you want to volunteer as room parent or co-room parent, add name to sign up sheet.

1. Science Night: 3/16 or 3/23.

* Julie will get with Dr. Hogans to make sure no conflicts on those days and determine which day will work best.  Need volunteers.  Do not need science experience to volunteer.

1. Spring Carnival: TBD

* Need help from room parents to put together themed baskets by class and do a raffle.

1. Volunteer Needs:

* Really need help with in-person events, help counting money, science fair, book fair, shopping for teacher supplies, taking letters to businesses for donations, room parents.
* Any amount of time volunteered is helpful.

1. Financial Updates:

* $25 from general donations, $60 Go Play Save, $395 car line, $300 PTO membership, $135.38 Spirit Wear $755 Vendor Show – December.  Very good for where we are in the school year and having not yet started fundraisers.
* Classroom reimbursements: $1,779.99, Administrative $120 CheddarUp, $24.00 PTO supplies and Programs, $104 Hospitality.

1. New Business:

* Dr. Hogans has allowed two of the reserved parking spots for PTO/Teacher member each quarter.  Teachers will get emails to send home to families about membership drive and carline passes.  The homeroom that raises most for car line passes, teacher will get one of the parking spots.  The second will most likely have teachers put their name in box for a drawing.
* How is PTO information being disseminated to parent?
  + One thing doing differently this year is requesting all class contact list.  Will receive email from PTO for parents to receive information from PTO.  Can opt out.  Until then, will get printed information for Go Play Save.  Best way to get information is going to PTO Facebook page.  On Weebly website, meeting minutes will be posted and can review past information. Room Parent link is on PTO website as well.  Can also reach out to your child’s teacher.
* Suggestion: We have quite a large population of kids with exceptional needs. Would recommend opening up some events early that will be sensory friendly.  Also, on dine-out night during Autism Awareness Month, can offer sensory friendly time frames.  Perhaps we can look into places that already have something in place for this.

1. Q&A with Dr. Hogans:

* When does school bus schedules become consistent?
  + In about two weeks, it should stabilize.  Can contact Ms. Moose to make sure information is correct in system.
* DPS Safety Summit coming up. Are we aware and going to be a part of it? What are safety protocols at LR? Is school locked, are classrooms locked? Suggested by Julie at next PTO meeting to review safety protocols.
  + Every school has a safe school plan for a variety events that might occur. All exterior doors are locked.  FOB entry for staff.  Have a safe school plan.  Drills through course of school year (fire drills, lock down drills twice a year, tornado drill seasonally).  Plans are updated every year.
* The first week of school mainly is about routines and procedures.  Hearing about how teachers are running the classroom and their expectations.  Should know by now how teacher would like to communicate.
* Transportation is always an issue that we have to help parents navigate.  You can contact transportation, but lots of other parents trying to do the same thing, so may be hard to get in contact with them.  Always reach out to staff and they will assist you.
* Please encourage someone else to join PTO.  There are also other ways to be involved.  In addition to PTO communication, you should be getting other communications such as Sunday evening phone call and Monday email/text.  Should also get a newsletter.  Class Dojo and Remind..  PTO FB page provides a lot of information about what’s happening in the school.
* DPS is still abiding by 3 Ws.  Moving towards new normal (in-person meetings).  School improvement team provides data reports from state.  Performs deep data dive to see how school is performing.  Little River is a Leader In Me School.
* Next school event is Curriculum Night on 9/22 to learn about your child’s academic program.  More information will be sent out soon.
* PTO meetings are usually first Monday of every month.  January will bumped to 1/9/23.  Calendar is on website.  There will be cookies!
* 9/14 is picture day.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm by Julie Kent

Minutes prepared by Lesley Watson