

Kernsville PTO Meeting
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
9:00 a.m.

Welcome - 9:05 a.m.

Attendance: Faith Ryan, Sara Solomon, Jen MacMurray, Barbara Galloway, Samntha Griffin, Stacy Daniels, Heather Hurst, Stacey Sanchez, Dana Schmitt, Amber Kerschner, Chantel Benes, Kelly Torres, Amy Perich, Cori Clemmer, Hillary Kricun, Jen Laskosky, Cindy Glackin, Colleen Charney-Gavirati, Mrs. Yeah! Mr. Gehringer

Important reminders

- ALL volunteers must sign-in a Front Office, wear a Visitor's badge, notify staff where you will be in the building, and when you are changing locations.
- Volunteer Clearances: <http://www.parklandsd.org/departments/human-resources/volunteers/>

Old Business

Review & Approval of June Minutes

- Jen M. moved for approval.
- Faith seconded.

Summer Social - Faith Ryan

- Held Tuesday, August 28.
- Descent turn out; mostly new families
- Dana Schmitt won raffle basket.
- Change of location to Kernsville playground was a success.
- We can cut down on food for next year.

K Orientation & Get the Scoop Recruiting - Faith Ryan

- Faith put our informational materials
- Collected sign up for volunteers

Open House - Faith Ryan

- We were able to get the coupon book fundraiser onto the desks for parents to take home.
- This was very well received.
- Faith also set up a table with sign up information for PTO positions/volunteers.

New Business

By Laws review and signatures

- Board will do this at next meeting.

Website - kernsvillepto.com - Sara Solomon update

- Visit for all info and forms
- Updated regularly, as is our Facebook page

Treasurer's Report – Jen MacMurray

- Last year we finished positive \$4,200 for the year.
- This was better than expected.

- We do an internal audit. Marianne A. and Sarah E. did that over the summer.
- Taxes this year were \$2,250. We will be looking into a new accountant who could do it for less.
- We had to renew web site and SUG \$250.
- Purchased some gift cards for PAW Patrol rewards.
- Kona Ice for Get the Scoop was \$375.
- Bought Mrs. Gross some new mindfulness yoga cards.
- We have only gotten 5 payments with PayPal thus far. 2.2% plus \$.30 cent transaction fee for each donation.
- Spiritwear will directly through the vendor, because it was too complicated to set up in PayPal.
- Reimbursement forms are available on our web site. Please include copies of all receipts. Submit to Jen either electronically, or through the PTO mailbox in the office.
- At all events we need 2 volunteers to do a cash count at the end of the evening. Please consider volunteering.
- Next month the budget for 2018-2019 will be presented per by-laws.

Birthday Table changes - reported by Sara Solomon

- Sign up went out Sept. 7
- After speaking with Mrs. Gross and Mr. G, we are going to make a small change to the format of Birthday Table.
- Instead of setting up two tables in the cafeteria auxiliary, we will now bring ice pops to birthday kids as they sit with their classmates at their normal lunch tables.
 - The benefit of this change is two-fold:
 - We have witnessed increasing anxiety over choosing a birthday friend to take to Birthday Table, as well as anxiety over not being chosen as a birthday friend. Serving only the birthday child takes away that anxiety and ensures everyone will have equal opportunity to get a treat.
 - Serving an ice pop to only the birthday child as he/she sits at the regular lunch tables also helps with allergy concerns, as children are already seated where it is safest for them.
 - We will still decorate all tables and sing the birthday song.

Staff appreciation - reported by Faith Ryan

- Elias Market donated fruit for Teachers for first day of school.
- We purchased pizza and salad for dinner for teachers on Open House night.

PTO Sponsorship - Faith Ryan

- Sponsorships are coming in
- Sara reported that link on printed material doesn't work.
- Visit kernsvillepto.com and click on "donate" instead.

Emails notices - Faith Ryan

- Anything that goes home must go through the office first.
- Please make sure that you get all your details to Laura by Tuesday for inclusion in the News From Kernsville School email that goes home each Friday.
- Mr. G added a lot will need to go electronically. This is a district wide initiative.

Event/Program Chair needs - Faith Ryan

- We have a lot of chairs who will be leaving the building in a year or two.
- Trying to recruit new co-chairs to shadow our existing chairs for continuity.
- A lot of the positions are not as much work as they seem.
- Availability to co-chair for Mom Squad, Walking Club, Holiday Shoppe and others.

Tracking volunteer hours - Sara Solomon

- Form on kernsvillepto.com under "volunteer"
- Please track hours
- 10 hours gets you invited to the district wide volunteer appreciation luncheon in May.
- Questions/problems: contact Sara (communication@kernsvillepto.com)

Walking Club - update Jen Korman reported by Faith

- Jen Korman has taken a long term sub job through November.
- We need someone to get Walking Club up and running until she can come back.
- Stacey Sanchez volunteered to get Walking Club started this fall while Jen is teaching.
- Usually held on Thursdays.

Mom Squad - update from Lisa Tan and Jen Korman reported by Faith

- Need someone to help Lisa by becoming a junior chair and learn how to help with sending out Sign Up Genius and coordinating volunteers for Math Book Ripping.
- Heather Kricun has volunteered to train under Lisa and Jen.
- We are also in need of volunteers to help with Math Book ripping. Please check sign up geniuses posted on Facebook and in News From Kernsville (Friday Email) for links.

Gifts to School update – Jen MacMurray, Cindy Glackin

- Gift to school die cuts from 2017-2018 needed a shelf.
- That \$35 will be applied to gift to school for this year.

Coupon Book Sales - Chantel Benes

- Everyone should have books by now; either on Open House or in backpack
- Two books: Kidstuff and Savearound
- Both books are offered online
- Visit our web site under "fundraising"
- 50% profit for us on each book sold.
- Unsold books and orders need to be returned by September 21.

Chipotle – Faith Ryan

- Sunday, September 16 from 4-8 p.m. at Hamilton Crossing Chipotle
- Have to have \$300 in sales to get the 33% profit
- Flyers went home in welcome folders
- Flyers available on our Facebook, web site
- Please share with friends

Spirit wear-Faith Ryan

- Using Tri-County Team Wear of Slatington
- Updated logo; all sizes available
- All ordering done online through October 12

- Have more options than what will be on the flyer
 - Because there is no order form, flyer will be sent via email and posters will be placed throughout the school and displayed at Night on the Circle
- They print on demand for our order
- Orders come to school and sent home with your child in November.
- May come via News From Kernsville School
- Check the web site as well
- Examples will not be available for Night on the Circle
 - PTO will purchase a few examples to display in the case near the elevator to the Gym.

Night On The Circle (NOTC) - Stacey Sanchez

- Will be held Friday, September 28.
- Upper Macungie Police will set up a vehicle for kids
- Inflatable obstacle course (same family fun day)
- Kona Ice
- Sticky Pig food truck
- Mrs. Swartz will DJ
- Miss Salvaterra puts out games and playground toys
- Bring a chair and picnic
- Raffle baskets
- Preview catalog fundraiser: Mixed bags
- Sign up will go out soon
- Stacey will send request to Heather for a Sign Up Genius
- Clearances not needed to volunteer because it is outside the school
- Rain date: October 12

Mixed Bags fundraiser 10/5 -Marianne Aloupis & Colleen Charney

- New this year
- Recycled materials
- All Vegan
- 50% of the items are \$20 or under
- Will be raffling off a compost bucket at Night on the Circle
- Will also have samples to check out at NOTC

Box tops & other reward programs-rewards/dates? - Ann Anderson

- New co-chair for counting, Kerry Weaver
- Free money for the school
- Please make sure that they are not expired
- Please make sure your child's name and teacher's name are on your submission
- Class with most box tops and dimes wins a treat and the honor of hosting the Box Tops trophy

Movie Nights-first event Oct 19- Samantha Griffin & Sarah Elias

- Hotel Transylvania 3 proposed.
- Rated PG
- Heeps will donate hot dogs
- Samantha will check supplies (juice boxes, candy, paper products, etc.)

- \$1 admission gets you admission and a popcorn.
- Bring chairs and blankets, sit on the gym floor.
- Doors open 6:00 p.m. and start movie at 6:30 p.m.

Assembly Report – Cindy Glackin & Stacey Sanchez

- October 11, author will be bringing Racing Pigeons if the weather is good. Book is about a racing pigeon.
- Mrs. Marzano brought her to us. She had been to Cetronia and was well received.
- Looking at Danielle Miller author visit in December.
- Might bring in the Science Tellers for the spring
- Read-a-thon assembly in the works.

Teacher Rep - Mrs. Yeahl

- Appreciate the die cuts
- Will pass info on Box Tops
- Thank you for increased Teacher Grants.
- Jen asked if Mrs. Yeahl could request teachers get in grant requests as soon as they have receipts for their allotment. Don't have to wait until the end of the year.

Principal's Report – Mr. Gehringer

- Reminder to get clearances
- District has taken a real step toward safety and security-- we will have Graham Security on site for things like concerts, Night on the Circle, Family Fun Day
 - We are located in North Whitehall, so we are serviced by already stretched thin State Police.
 - State Police will drive by our events, but we will hire Graham to be on site
- New policy of Run or Hide or Fight (policy for teachers/staff NOT kids)
 - Mr. G can provide further details
 - We are giving options to our staff with this policy
 - We changed our fire drill policy to not exit immediately upon alarm
 - All drills are announced
 - Since 1998, no one has died in a school fire. Only person who did die in a school fire, was a teacher who went back in the 1970s
 - So, we are training for something that rarely happens (school fire)
 - Instead we are now training for intruders
 - Gives staff options to get kids out and/or stop intruder.
 - This is a national/federal/state police policy
- We are going to have a bell system starting the last week of September
 - Will be used at the beginning and end of the day
- Grades 3, 4, and 5 will be doing "CDTs" (Classroom Diagnostic Testing)
 - Replaces Wonders benchmarks and GOMath beginning of the year, middle of the year and final assessments.
 - CDTs is a state system; gives us an idea how are kids are doing against PSSAs and State Common Core.
 - This test is more specific than what we had been using and allows for more individualized instruction.
 - All online.
 - Taken 3 times per year.

- Assessment is personalized for each student -- computer program adjusts based on strengths and weaknesses.
- It is meant to be difficult/challenging.
- Parents will not get the results; through the state it is difficult to print out
 - That does not be results won't be shared; may not get a printed report, but you will learn the results
 - Aiming to discuss results with parents at November conferences
- K-2 will still be using STAR
- 3-5 will also be using STAR this year
 - Last year updates were rolled out to STAR; Parkland does not believe the test is now as accurate as it was before the updates. They asked to revert to the old version but could not.
 - CDTs might replace STAR altogether in the future, but this year kids will do both.
- Kernsville again did excellent on PSSAs. We were above district average in all areas; in some cases, our grades were the best in the district.
 - State will mail results in October; school is still waiting on individual reports
 - Kernsville is making growth -- students are getting better year over year
- There is a new policy with regards to attendance in the state of PA
 - State no longer cares why you are out -- even if illness
 - After 18 days, you are considered habitually truant no matter what the cause
 - If Kernsville knows why you have been out, they will work with you, but they do have the ability to call a meeting and create a plan after 18 days.

Adjourn 10:31 a.m.

NEXT Meeting – Tuesday, Oct 9, 2018 9:00 a.m. in room 410