

PTO Meeting - November 14th, 2023 - 7pm via Zoom

Attendees: Mr. Gehringer, Sara Seipel, Ashley Bender, Kerry DeOliveira, Angel R, Lauren McBride, Jess Komlos, Lauren Rummerfield, Ray, Amanda

Approval of October 2023 Minutes: Ashley Bender & Lauren Rummerfield

Mr. G discussed the following:

- a. The pizza warmer was ordered for the Holiday Shop
- b. The Brain Show Assembly sounds like a great reward for Walk-a-Thon
- c. Very proud of everyone involved in Walk-a-Thon. Hope to include a live stream next year for parents/families to watch students. Thank you for a great job!
- d. Kernsville is receiving free tickets for the Wizards vs. Staff game to distribute to students. These tickets will be used as SWIBS prizes. They'll be given out in groups of 2 and have at least 3 groups to distribute. Miss Krause and Miss Fry are both participating in the game. The art club made posters for the game to cheer them on.
- e. Email sent out regarding the current water problem within the school. We don't have a mold problem, we have a moisture problem that created a mildew and a fungus. Every room has been tested and is safe to be in. The most recent test being Monday, 11/13/23. The problem was discovered in August. Run off from behind the school is not being properly routed around the school and instead finding ways into the school. Some carpets were damp in classrooms at the back of the school near the windows. Water finding its way into the school created a humidity problem due to the amount of moisture in the air. The curtain in the gym could be rung out, that's how damp it was. It has been removed and cleaned. The HVAC system had no dehumidifier as a part of it. This pushed damp air into the school. An engineering firm was contracted and came out and diverted water around the school. We're looking into installing ionization units, filters and a dehumidifier in the HVAC systems. No mold problem. The district contracted a 3rd party Dr to perform tests that showed no mold. There is mildew. Mrs Yeahls class carpet was replaced and mildew was found underneath it. All the carpet throughout the building will be pulled and replaced with tile next summer. Every room has been tested and if anyone has concerns they will retest rooms and continue to do so. Any questions or concerns please reach out to Mr G. He is more than happy to chat.
- f. Parents have a voice. Our PTO is open to anything. They are doing a phenomenal job and are in it for the right reasons. He appreciates everything the PTO does. Some PTO's get it and others don't, Kernsville PTO gets it!!

Old Business:

1. Canvas & Cookies - 46 canvases purchased. This event is mostly attended by the younger kids. March 22, 2024 is our next Canvas & Cookies event. We break even with

what we charge (\$13 per canvas). We provide bottled water, capri sun and cookies (purchased at Weis).

2. Bulletin Board - continue to update bulletin board monthly. November features artwork and writing from Kindergarten.
3. Math Ripping - Need to work on "B" books which are needed for the second half of the school year. We will begin this process in January and would love some volunteers to help with this task. We rip apart and staple each chapter to make it easier for students.
4. Trunk or Treat - We had a great turnout and beautiful weather. There were 15 trunks that participated. The event was 3 pm - 5 pm. Could probably do 3 pm - 4/4:30 pm next year. Don't need the full 2 hours. Everyone did an awesome job with their decorations. Ashley wrote Thank You notes and handed them out as each car arrived - just a little something to show our appreciation for their participation! We're excited to have this event again next year. We did get approval to have businesses participate next year - so hopefully that is something that will provide more trunks. We would also like to move it early in the month of October next year. Overall it was a success and we are excited to make it bigger and better next year!
5. Principal Month - The Board members gifted Mr G a gift basket to show our appreciation for his constant support.
6. Walking Club - Every Wednesday in Fall and Spring. Kristina Ray is in charge of this. We purchased a new Walking Club cart due to the old one breaking. Mr G asked if there is another way we could possibly distribute the "prizes" the younger students receive. Teachers have mentioned they become a distraction in class after recess and students want to play with them and are not completing their school work. This is something we can discuss over winter and have a plan for spring when walking club start back up.
7. Walk A Thon - This fundraiser was a HUGE success! We raised \$20,833 with a 51% participation rate! We will be doing this again next year. The flyers and emails were extremely effective. Many parents mentioned the social media posts/updates were fun and helpful. The QR code printouts that Mrs Bronzo created for us were also very helpful - could easily hand out to friends and family members. Mr G would like to have an area that is live streamed next year so parents can tune in to see their children. Students that cannot be filmed/photographed will know to avoid that area. He would also like to utilize the morning news to promote the Walk a Thon with updates as to where we are with our goal. Maybe a commercial created by the kids? The posters in the cafeteria were a hit, students and staff loved checking them every day. These posters have been stored in the PTO closet for use next year.

New Business:

8. Volunteer Protocol - Everyone must have clearances to enter the school. After signing in, check in with the office and let them know where you will be. No wandering the halls. No visiting classrooms. No disciplining students. Instructions for obtaining clearances can be found on Kernsville website and PTO website as well. Super simple process!
9. Treasurer Report - Budget will be posted ASAP. Unfortunately Elizabeth was unable to attend the meeting due to being sick.

10. Teacher Liason - Mary Kelly - No comments this evening.
11. Walk a Thon Events -
 - a. Top earner in each grade will receive a prize. Prizes include Dave & Buster Gift Card, Crayola Experience Tickets and Craft Tub, Young Chefs Academy Gift Card, Duck Donuts Gift Card and Ice Cream Basket, Fightin Phils Tickets, Iron Pigs Tickets. An email will be sent out to the whole school detailing who won what prizes.
 - b. Kindergarten raised the most money overall. They will receive a pizza and pj party for the entire grade. We will coordinate with the school as to when this will happen.
 - c. Highest earning class - Luksic - will receive 15 minutes extra recess and popsicles
 - d. \$15k goal prize - The Brain Show assembly - 1 hour long assembly. 2 assemblies - K, 1 & 2 and 3, 4, 5
 - e. \$20k goal prize - Mr G has agreed to be silly stringed by the top earner from each classroom
12. Holiday Jubilee - We're excited to switch things up this year with Holiday Shop. As discussed previously, we are having a 1 day event on December 9th, from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. There will be activities in the Gym and Cafeteria. We will have the Holiday Shop area for students to shop for family and friends. Santa will be there and you can take pictures with him. There will be multiple crafts for kids to make, games, face painting, food available for purchase, cupcake decorating, ice cream sundae decorating. Admission is free. However we are asking that all Holiday Shop and Food purchases are cash only. We have lots of high school students signed up to volunteer. Shopping is almost complete for the "Holiday Shop" area. Spent roughly \$2,700 so far. Mrs Swartz has so graciously volunteered to play the piano upstairs and we'll have holiday music playing in the gym.
13. Fifth Grade Events - Jess Komlos shared that all T-shirts were ordered and distributed. All students were included. The shirts were worn for the 5th grade field trip. In January they will begin to divide up and start planning and collecting necessary items for the remaining events throughout the school year.
14. Book Fair - Book fair started today. We have more cases than in the past! 8 instead of 6, including a tri-fold case. Lots of "sale" items compared to the past. Kids are excited and having fun shopping! Book fair will be open through the 17th for students to shop during Media class. It will also be open Monday and Tuesday during Parent/Teacher Conferences.
15. Staff Dinner - The PTO is providing dinner for the staff on 11/20 during Parent/Teacher conferences. Olive Garden in Whitehall generously donated a \$100 gift card to the PTO which is being used to purchase soup, salad and breadsticks. We will also be purchasing ready made trays of various entrees at Costco to heat and drop off.
16. Parent Concerns - Sara briefly touched on correspondence she received from Emily Bradshaw regarding parents losing their voices. The PTO meetings are where your voices are heard. If you have ideas, concerns, questions, etc., PTO meetings are the

place to discuss them. We welcome everyone to get involved and help out! We are doing the best we can and are excited to help make the students and staff at Kernsville happy!

Misc. Items:

1. Lauren Rummerfield suggested dine & donate options of Back Home Bagels (15%) and Red Robin (20%). We felt these would be great options for later in the year.
2. 2024/2025 school year PTO Meetings will alternate in person at 9 am in KV Cafeteria and virtual at 7 pm via zoom every month.

Meeting adjourned.