

Gilchrist Elementary School PTO – February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Scotty Crowe, Caroline Weiss, Eva Horton, Tiffany Cruz, Parker Sullivan, Colby Lindsay, Lea Richardson, Maureen Burns, Denis Burns, Amanda Whitaker, Belinda Wise, Hester Ndoja, Melissa Tate, Mary Linzee Branham, Jordan Jacobs, Tracy Eckles, Tracy Bishop, Stacie Kornegay

The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm

Principal's Update:

- Lots of events coming up before spring break.
- Very excited about STEAM carnival, Olympics and Teacher Appreciation Week
- Volunteer breakfast is tomorrow, please plan on coming
- Our Grizzly Café updates are on the School Board's 2/14/23 meeting agenda officially
- Potentially we will have the construction work done during/after Spring Break
- Share Night at Blaze & Tijuana Flats on 2/22/23
- Feels like things on campus are finally "almost" back to normal, he is grateful and excited for all the things going on

Approval of the minutes: Motion to Approve Denis Burns, Seconded by Tiffany Cruz. Approved unanimously

Treasurer update: No major updates at this time, a lot coming up when auction closes and soiree funds are accounted for, we need to add a line item to our budget to print the newsletter going forward as it has been well received

Teacher Liaison, Amanda Whitaker:

- Olympics opening ceremony 3/2/23, kick off to Field Day
- 3/2/23 at 8:45am on the track and then 2nd and 5th grade to start Field Day immediately after
- STEAM carnival/touch a truck 3/4/23, we had over 1,000 people last year, anticipating that much this year again if not more
- Tentative Mother/Son Date night 4/21/23 FSU baseball game

Academics

- Faculty meetings – Tiffany Cruz
 - No February faculty meeting
 - No March meeting due to Spring Break, and the April meeting is replaced with Going Coastal, so next Faculty meeting is May
- Going Coastal – April 20 at Caroline's house
 - Collect \$20 per hostess, not an official PTO event
 - Date may change due to TMH gala
- Teacher appreciation – Parker on behalf of Meredith
 - Week of March 6
 - Will be decorating lounge, stocking snacks
 - Sign up genius is out
 - May need volunteers for re-stocking and other serving
 - Calendar of events was circulated

- We will also be participating in bus driver appreciation week the same week

School Engagement

- Doughnuts with Grownups – Tiffany Cruz
 - Tiffany will chair again next year
 - Maybe consider moving to one day next year on a Wednesday?
 - We went through 65 dozen doughnuts this year
 - Maybe consider splitting alphabet next year
- Grizzly Givers- Mary Linzee Branham
 - So far in 2023 we have received \$1,725.00
 - School year to date \$11,694.30
 - There are more donations we know are coming in
 - Mary Linzee to order more supplies for givers
 - Will do another push for donors before end of the school year
- Grizzly Guys- Denis Burns
 - Goal to expand
 - Need to circulate flyer/signup for advertising at Sweetheart Soiree
 - Need dads to grill the morning of STEAM carnival and help with parking
- Silent Auction – Hester Ndoja
 - Everything closes tonight at 9pm
 - Reminder text to go out at carpick up time with scheduled reminders throughout the afternoon/evening
 - Amazing response so far, currently at \$11,451.00
 - Thank you to all teachers and staff who contributed an experience

Boosterthon: This year we raised over \$100,000, however under our contract with Boosterthon they kept \$49,000 of that. Since October the Executive Board, Abby Vail (Committee chair) and Mr. Crowe have done significant research and have determined that we can likely host the event ourself without the help of Boosterthon using a different software platform to collect the pledges and using more staff/school based help to collect and KEEP more funds on campus.

A motion was made by Parker Sullivan to approve leaving the Boosterthon platform and taking the fundraiser in house, Seconded by Denis Burns. A vote was conducted and this passed unanimously.

Other business: We need to discuss/vote on a Business/Community Partner of the Year. Due to a communication issue with the district, we have to make this decision today. Nominees/businesses discussed included Prime Meridian Bank, due to the fact that the school banks there, they help with Book Fair, STEAM carnival and sponsor a breakfast for faculty. Denis Burns moved to name them our partner, Seconded by Tiffany Cruz, passes unanimously.

Special Presentation from the Garden Group: They discussed their plans for curriculum, updating the garden area, and the expansion plan to include 8 raised beds in an area that's currently a dirt space. This expansion will match what we already have and make use of an otherwise relatively unused area outdoors between Kindergarten and 3rd grade buildings. The County's mason will help with this, all rotten wood pieces we have will also be replaced with brick which will last longer. This was taken under advisement by the Board and will be discussed/voted on in a coming meeting.

No other new business noted.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm