

Forest Road PTO Meeting – Virtual (Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 7:00PM

- **Board Introductions**

- **Reports**

- Principal's Report – Karli Stamer said that she feels very proud to be working for our district. Karli was very happy to see kids coming back to school, both remote and hybrid – coming together to make things work has been a great experience for her. She appreciated the parents that were able to make a move from am to pm to help facilitate a smooth transition.
 - 70-ish % opted in for saliva testing – very great numbers – majority of the teachers have opted in.
 - No extra outside-of-school clubs as of yet but being discussed.
 - Karli will include info for people who would like to opt in to saliva testing, including instructions and Sarah will include in the newsletter
- President's Report – discussion on teacher appreciation – PTO presidents decided that each school would cover the teachers from their home school so no one is left out
 - Diversity and inclusion topic – discussed message that was sent out to the entire school. Discussed different resources – books, etc for kids and families. PTO is looking for suggestions and hoping to gain more knowledge.
- Treasurer's Report – 2019-2020 - \$40,000 – thought we would raise and expenses would be \$40,000 as well
 - \$4,500 the fundraising goal for this school year
 - \$18,500 expenses for this year
 - opted to not cut any curriculum-related expenses and teacher appreciation where it was in previous years (dip into surplus)
 - Raised about \$3,000 in PTO dues typically in past years
 - Karli will add a blurb about PTO dues in her newsletter (Sarah will send her a template)- unanimous vote by the board to approve the proposed budget – passed

- **Fundraising/ Fundraising Committee Updates**

- Boosterthon (Anna Wagler) – chose not to move forward with Boosterthon this year – due to uncertainty (school and financial). We won't have a large choice of preferred dates for next school year due to not booking now but we feel that is the best choice at this point.

- **Restaurant Nights (Joanne Van Etten)**

- Discussed several restaurant options – trying to think outside the box
- Mark's email - viniardma@dist102.k12.il.us
- Enzo's on 10/14, 11am-8pm – giving back 25%
- Karli will add it to her newsletter and we will reach out to Mark to add it to the district email and social media

- Tates – Jamie picked up Tates Tokens for the teachers – both remote and hybrid
- Other Ideas
- Ask letter with specific donation categories
 - Classroom Needs
 - Teacher Appreciation
 - LRC/Birthday Books
 - Specials (PE, Music, Art)
 - General Donations
 - Diversity and Inclusion
- The thought was that if someone would like to make a donation, there will be a letter put together for people who would like to designate funds toward specific areas. Info will be included in upcoming newsletters, etc.
- **Committee Reports**
 - Teacher Appreciation (Kate Cisek) – Anna let Kate know that she has provided the birthday list so we can continue the birthday cards. Will work with Panera again since they provide a discount when buying in bulk. Will discuss conference meals at next meeting since we aren't sure how conferences will go at this point. Kate proposed idea of FR support signs – fundraiser for teacher appreciation.
 - Spirit Wear (Melissa Granger) – Melissa not present but she noted that she is getting ready to open the spiritwear link open. Masks will be included this year as well as t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.
 - School Pictures (Joyce Georgi) – 10/29 is picture day.
 - Hybrid – during your scheduled in-school time
 - Remote – evening picture session
 - More information to follow – all online ordering this year
 - Room Parents – once process is in place, we will have room parents
 - Book Fair – Ms. Mlade – online book fair – working on marketing to promote
 - Birthday books – as of today, there are books available - kids will fill out a survey on topics they would like and they will get a book based on that.
 - Will provide books for kids' birthdays that were missed the end of last year.
- **Teacher Supports/ Outdoor Classroom**
 - Picnic Tables/Mats – discussed if this is necessary now for this year with weather changing and the hybrid students are not in person very long. Picnic table discussion – may be difficult to social distance. Decided to put this idea on hold until the spring to discuss further based on budget and weather.
 - Classroom Seating from last year -some teachers received last school year (seating, stem items, etc) and some did not. Anna is reaching out to Kris for the information and we will work through who still needs products.
- **Virtual Events/ Fundraisers/ Ways to Connect**
 - Potential Virtual Items: Art Enrichment, Running Club, Trivia Night, Run for 102, Bike Rodeo/Registration

- Run for 102 – FR will host this year since last year event didn't happen – discussing virtual options
- Bike Rodeo – discussed possibly opening up to the entire school, rather than just 3rd grade. Hoping to have a virtual option with the Police Department.
- On Superintendent's call – discussed how Congress Park holds a Cultural Night – Jamie said it sounds like the district might be interested. Uncertainty surrounding virtual possibilities, etc.
- Idea was proposed for outdoor drive-in movie – Kate has a contact she will reach out to for cost, etc
- Karli brought up the fact that there have been discussions on trying to connect kids (remote and hybrid) – ideas are welcome.
- Karli brought up the book called - Distanced Learning Playbook – she will share anything she learns from this resource.
- Spirit week – fun ideas for remote and hybrid kids to come together and do something fun. This will also give remote kids an opportunity to be highlighted in the yearbook, etc.
- Idea was discussed to ask people to share resources regarding heritage months – possibly volunteers to create content to include in newsletter. Sarah will put together a blurb to reach out. Karli also suggested older students get involved in highlighting their own culture. Karli will reach out to the teachers for ideas for students to share.
- Laura Dvorak has volunteered to help create content that will highlight various heritages.
- Display Cases – discussed having the kids highlight their collections virtually