

PTO Minutes 21 March 2024

Attendees: Chanelle Benz, Beth Myers, Sarah Brown, Eric Ferguson, Alex Waldauer, Justin Pritchard, Brigit Burt, Emma Flint, Ashley Kennard, Kari Zhe-Heimerman, Vanessa Jones (teacher rep), Andrea Ellis-Smith, Nicole Fonger, Sasha Farrell, Hanah Ehrenreich, Emily Thorson

Principal's Report

- Upcoming events
 - Kindergarten info session: March 27th 9:30am – 10:30am, Ed Smith (pre-K and kindergarten registration window has opened and runs through March 31)
 - Community Resource Fair: March 27th 5pm – 8:30pm, Nottingham High School, info about mental health, outreach programs, free childcare
 - Tonys Awards May 16th, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Palace Theater, opportunity to recognize family and parents for their contributions to their schools, anyone can nominate a parent or family. Deadline for nominations is April 25th.
 - Next round of state testing takes place 12th -17th of April, grades 3-8. K-2 will do quiet activities during that time
 - Ed Smith spelling bee representation: March 23rd, 9am, an Ed Smith student will be in the Scripps-Howard regional spelling bee at the SU campus
- Past events
 - Volunteer recognition lunch held last week
 - “Crockpot wars” in the building to raise money for 6th grade’s end of the year events
 - NYS testing event: provided information about sample tests, how to interpret results, how to prepare for tests
 - NWEA testing events: provided information about the test, individual scores will go home on April 1 (grades 2-8). Final NWEA is in June.
 - 8th graders participated in Career and Technical Education college tour to Oswego. This is the second of three college tours, a program specific to 7th/8th grade, helps get kids excited about college.
- Other items
 - “Bridge to Middle School” info session went well. Planning for next year: try to do it earlier (perhaps in February) and do more promotion and collaboration with the district

- Ramadan began on the 10th, there is a support area for students who are fasting. Thank you to volunteers who are helping supervise the fasting room.
- Principal Ellis has secured \$10k for Ed Smith rebranding (e.g. instructional lettering on staircases; more public signage about our mission and vision; flags; tent with flags)
- Newsies rehearsals are going well and students are very enthusiastic
- Question about lead letter that was sent home
 - Logistical issue: Can we have letters sent out via TalkingPoints as well to ensure parents receive them?
 - Mrs. Ellis will follow up with Dr. DiFlorio or someone on his staff to come to the next PTO meeting and address it more thoroughly, and will also try to find other relevant information.

Approval of February minutes

- Sasha motions to approve, Brigit seconds, minutes approved

President's report

- Increasing volunteer presence
 - If you are interested in volunteering, email Alex Waldauer (Alex.Waldauer@gmail.com) for opportunities and to get set up – and stay tuned for Carnival opportunities!
- Opportunities to be in the school
 - People are always welcome to contact teachers to ask about needs
 - Read Across America event was successful
 - Many volunteers are helping supervise the Ramadan fasting room (email
- Promote school to friends and families
 - Promoting Ed Smith is not always the district's first priority; important to do individual outreach
- Recess
 - While there is a school-wide policy stating that recess cannot be taken away, teachers may need support in implementing this
 - Chanelle and Hahnah will draft a letter to the administration about parent concerns around recess/asking how the PTO can help teachers
- Vote on change to bylaws
 - Current: president and treasurer may approve up to \$150. New: may approve up to \$250. Slightly raise the amount of money
 - Hahnah motions, Beth seconds, all approve
- Update on the musical (Newsies): April 4th and 5th, 7pm

- Beth has sold over \$1k in ads so far, but ads can still be submitted! Email Beth (beth.ann.myers@gmail.com) by Wednesday 3/27: \$10 for a shout-out, \$25 quarter-page, \$75 for a full page
- Other updates
 - Sarah Brown shares that Ed Smith PTO was awarded a Literacy Champions Grant, funding will provide three mobile book carts for the book giveaways, and will fund books for youngest ENL students. There were 36 applicants and only 19 were funded!
 - Idea: when we do the gear sale, do a “buy one for someone else,” or have a pre-loved Ed Smith gear sale
 - Yearbook needs more photos! Please email hi-res photos of middle school students to lesleyporcelli@gmail.com
 - Photographer needed for the musical, ideally a non-parent. Hanah will reach out to a potential person.

Treasurer’s report

- Biggest expense was Black History celebration

Funding requests

- \$237 from Mrs. Forbidussi for 30 over the head/over the ear headphones, the district headphones don’t last
 - Kari motions to approve, Beth seconds, approved
- \$450 for Ms. DiTucci for the Wonderworks field trip tomorrow (from 1st grade budget)
 - Kari motions to approve, Beth seconds, approved
- \$120 for a cart to transport new sound equipment (from Arts fund)
 - Hahnah motions to approve, Chanelle seconds, approved
- \$160 from Ms. Juman, cost of musical rights for Grade 1 (\$70) and Grade 2 plays (\$90), \$40 for an accompanists for Solo Fest
 - Kari motions, Chanelle seconds, approved

Other

- Ed Smith school needs new socks in a variety of sizes
- Trip to musical (Once) is moving forward, via bus. It will potentially occur every grade, every three years
- Kari’s term as middle school vice president ends in June
- Teacher appreciation day is approaching, PTO will organize something
- What is going on in the art room?
 - Can we get Ms. Mann, the art coach, to come in and do some coaching with the art teachers. Maybe also Rory Edwards could help out.

- Could we coordinate an art show?

Carnival!!!

- June 7th! Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities!

Justin motions to adjourn, Emily seconds