

November PTO Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023
Ed Smith PTO meeting - Full minutes

Attendees: Principal Ellis, Ms. Earl, Ms. Clark, Eric Ferguson, Justin Pritchard, Matthew Fledderjohann, Ashley Kennard, Brigit Burt, Karly Grifasi, Kari Zhe-Heimerman, Sarah Workman
Online: Emily Thorson, Ping Damiani

Principal's report

- 1-month in!
- Strategic plan will prioritize instructional offerings:
 - Teachers are undergoing goal-setting sessions and starting to work with students to set goals; working at department-level and grade-level to progress monitor goals
 - Providing more opportunities for teachers to collaborate; will conduct team walk-throughs after the break—teachers will focus on planning for small-group instruction.
 - Partnering with district to discuss funding for staffing additional course offerings to meet students performing above grade level
- Student involvement:
 - Kari will reach out to Ms. Dodge to invite newly elected student council members to future PTO meeting
 - Penny Wars underway
 - Friday 11/17 - pie in the face
 - Anti-bullying spirit week underway Nov. 13 – 17
 - Attendance goal continues to be 95%
 - Talent Show is Nov. 16 @ 6:30 in the cafeteria
- Friday, Dec. 8 – half-day (dismissal at 11:00)
- Ms. Earl's report: teacher goals focused in 5 areas: attendance, reading, math, survey (how kids feel about school), ENL population
 - ELA word of the week targets ENL population (home languages)
 - Idea from Brigit: solicit students' input (word + definition) for word of the week
 - Emphasis on culture: Ms. Ellis is a huge supporter of recognizing small changes for all students and staff!
- Access: Ms. Ellis's door is always open for families
 - Collaborating with front office on "red carpet service"; suggestions welcome
- Kari: What is chronic absenteeism?
 - If a student misses 18 days by June, they are "chronically absent"; attendance impact team does outreach via phone call
 - Ms. Earl - Absenteeism strategy: Unenrollment is a strategy for students making long-term home visits (with *guaranteed* re-enrollment upon return)
- Ashley: Is the buddy system still happening? Buddy day planning in the works

Maureen Sweeney with Career and Technical Education (CTE) SCSD

- 30 programs of choice offered; most have college credits associated with them

- 8 P-TECH Programs with associate degrees built-in (28-42 transcribed credits); students can finish their associate degree or transfer them elsewhere upon graduation
 - New: Semiconductor Microchip Technology will be offered at Corcoran (50 students)
- All 8th graders visit CTE expo Nov. 20 & 21; all 6-8 graders will receive a hard copy of the Pathway brochure and it is available for download online; Ms. Forbidussi is the Ed Smith contact
- Karly: Is it too late for already enrolled students to select a pathway? Email the contact, Bruno Primerano
- New STEAM high school: the 7th graders now will be first eligible to apply for Sept. 2025 (will enroll a 9th grade of 250 students total); 60% SCSD/40% county
- Kari: kids seem confused about whether or not they HAVE to choose a pathway if they are going to a school where you do not need to be enrolled in a CTE

President's report:

- October PTO meeting minutes – Kari motions to approve, seconded by Karly, pending typographical changes – Approved
- President's pillars:
 - Increase number of volunteers - we have addressed issue of "how to be a volunteer"
 - Promote school to friends, family, and neighborhood
 - Increase PTO meeting attendance
- Increasing PTO attendance
 - Provide Eric names of individuals who would become more involved with PTO activities, meeting attendance, etc.
 - Idea: tailor the PTO meetings – eg "kindergarten welcome" or "CTE" so that people know which ones they should go to, athletic program, etc
 - Could be helpful to have specific mini-sessions (e.g. "intro to the new principal")
 - Note that even if attendance is low, many people read the minutes
 - Geography challenges: about half of Ed Smith kids are bussed in from other districts

Treasurer's Report

- Money in: \$418, \$65 for Tops in education
- Wreath sale still goes for another week
- Ms. Juman requests \$840 for second-grade Nutcracker tickets, District is covering bussing (thanks to Kari)
 - Eric seconded, passed

Other

- Student council has been elected
 - They want to raise money for charity
- Eric to visit the staff meeting to remind teachers about the process for requesting funds
- We still need volunteers to get people their wreaths
- Chiefs committee update:
 - Ashley to explore logistics around a possible Gaga pit for the playground