Peeples Elementary PTO

PTO Meeting Minutes

Aug 24, 2023

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1. Welcome & Outstanding Items - Lorena Alarcon motion to start, second: Rebecca Smith
* Budget approved for courtyard: Ashley-motion to vote, Buffy seconded, no Nays
	+ Approved $20,000 from remaining funds and new fundraising for the courtyard update and ongoing services
	+ Braves tickets update and direct donations.
* 215 tickets sold today ($2015)
* Direct donations $377
* Courtyard design: 3 areas—marble table will remain in place, Astroturf area, and an area for growing small plants and sensory enrichment
	+ Sun shade sails will be installed
1. Treasurer Report - Saskia Arnesen
	1. $49,000 in our balanced budget for this school year, we are on pace with fundraising
	2. $33,363.88 in checking and $10,438.32 in savings
	3. Direct drive has raising $8,307 of the goal of $10,000
	4. Fun Run is also well-sponsored with the remaining fundraising depending on registration
	5. The annual donation to the school, and the Fall teacher gift cards for fulltime and parttime staff have been given. Gift cards will go out again in January.
	6. The fiscal audit of the 22/23 school year is underway with 2 volunteers

Committees

1. Hospitality: Kathryn Kasych, Stephanie Martin and Liz Wallace
	1. All the appreciation days for Fayette County employees are celebrated with gifts
		1. Stephanie designed the color-changing Rocket reusable cup that will be given
		2. Other events are soup & salad lunch, holiday lunch and staff appreciation days
2. Spring Fling: Ashley heads this up, event is 1st Friday in May, always needs more volunteers
3. Penny Wars: Erin Fish, usually in February
4. International day: Lorena Soledevilla- changed from cultural arts week in previous years; now its own event Oct 20
	1. Roughly 13 participants signed up so far, hoping for more
	2. Countries of ancestry can also be featured!
	3. Mexico, Canada, Liberia, Netherlands, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Columbia and England will be represented.
5. Spirit Wear: Rebecca Smith—online sales of the new 23/24 designs (and one popular from previous years) are now for sale online at the Peeples Square site. Sales will close 8/28/23 with orders to go home with students mid- to late-September.
6. Kindness week: Brittney Matcheck-happens in January
7. Cultural arts – needs committee chair, events in spring including the talent show
8. Ice Cream – Rachel Parkhill – good volunteer turnout, about 60 signed up! Selling at lunchtime MWF
9. Corresponding Secretary Report - Rebecca Smith – Spirit Nights scheduled so far:
	1. No Chickfila this year! SuperChix 9/21/23 and 11/2/23, Partners 10/17/23 4-8pm take-out included, Starlite 3/8/24, Mike & Cs TBD
	2. Possibly will try to add Mellowmushroom, Semisweet cookies or TCBY
10. Recording Secretary – Faith DeBartola (not in attendance today, note poorly taken by Rebecca Smith instead)
11. Fun Run – Laura Belanger
	1. Review of 2022: 738 registered runners (362 Peeples students, 47 on event day). $12,300 raised for the PTO. 85 volunteers, including 25 teachers, more than 1/3 were community members
	2. This year’s event is 10/13/23, it’s the 20th running, sign up window shorter this year, sign up quick!
	3. 1-mile Kinder run is back. Kindergarten and younger only, $15. $25 for 1-mile and 5K.
	4. Already received $3350 from sponsors
	5. New for 2023: costume contest, no race bags, race gear will be sent home with students
	6. Still need volunteer help with: photo booth/backdrop, costume contest MC and judges, and door prize collector/finder/business caller. Door prizes not necessarily items; can be tickets for Starlite, Legacy Theater, Pike Nursery, TCBY, Escalade climbing, Urban Air, Fun Spot
	7. Registration opens August 24, early registration ends 9/25, online registration ends 10/10, 10/12 race gear sent home, event date 10/13
12. Ashlee Bingel is the teacher liaison. Michelle Richards is the head of the new parent liaison committee.
13. Buffy’s Updates:

**Thank you**

* Thank you to all the parents who have helped get our school year started smoothly with Meet the Teacher, Kindergarten Mini Day, and back to school week.
* Thank you PTO for teacher gift cards and for all our families that donated to provide a back to school breakfast for our staff members.
* Thank you to PTO for working to renovate our Courtyard Area and providing the Rocket Tailgate Celebration tomorrow

**School/Staff Updates**

* Demographic Updates:
	+ 688, down from 734 students last year (smallest year ever)
	+ 15 New staff members (AP, teachers, SPED, paraprofessionals, custodians, art, nurse)
	+ SRO full time
	+ Kindergarten - 4 teachers, 79 students
	+ 1st - 6 teachers, 103 students
	+ 2nd - 6 teachers, 109 students
	+ 3rd - 6 teachers, 121 students
	+ 4th - 5 teachers, 129 students
	+ 5th - 6 teachers, 147 students
* This year Specials will continue on a 6 day rotation. Students transition to the special area classrooms. Specials rotations change weekly to ensure that all students receive each special area offered (PE, Music, Art, World Language), Computer Science is in addition to the schedule
* Parent Square is a new communication tool K-12.
* The Clinic is a busy place! As of Tuesday, the nurse has had 480 reported visits to the clinic this year for a variety of reasons. Of course, due to confidentiality, I can not share the reasons.
* Playground Update- the finishing date is still unknown, it could take a while if parts have to be ordered

**Leader in Me Update**

* Leadership jobs process has begun.
* Aligning Academics & Empowering Instruction are our main goals this year.
* Synergy Squads - 4 times prior to holiday breaks
* Leadership Notebooks
* Student-led conferences (on master calendar) - Friday, Feb. 2nd (K, 2nd & 4th); Friday, Feb. 9th (1st, 3rd & 5th)

**Upcoming Events**

* 8/25 - Rocket Tailgate 5:00-6:30
* 8/28 - Running Club Begins
* 9/4 - Student Holiday
* 9/5 - Personalized Learning Day - Students learn from home
* 9/7 - K-2nd & Special Areas Open House 5:00-6:00
* 9/14 - School Council Meeting
* 9/19 - Fall Pictures

**Needs**

* Assistance with cleaning up the front flower beds (weeding, mulching, etc.)

10:30AM: Ashley motion to close, Lorena second

Attendees:

Rebecca Smith

Taylor Hunter

Alicia Brustein

Maria Mayers

Jennifer Geury

Bonnie Barnett

Saskia Arnesen

Kimber McDermid

Sarah Hicks

Callie Henderson

Erika Gibson

Michelle Richards

Wanda Godwin

Stephanie Martin

Kathryn Kasych

Laura Belanger

Buffy Blodgett

Courtney Weitzel

Ashlee Bingel

Tommilynn Baker