SMPTO Meeting Minutes

10/01/20 Zoom

1) Call to order/welcome:

The meeting was started at 7:07pm. In attendance were: Brooke Romito (President), Sara Faller-Bowermaster (Co-Treasurer), Heather Halloway (Co-Treasurer), Ashley Garancheski (Co-VP IFES), and Charlie Bailey (Co-VP IFES), Melissa Barnhart (Co-VP Rice), David Boley (Principal Rice), and Trisha Reed (Principal IFES). There were also five parents in attendance.

2) Introductions: Brooke started the meeting by asking everyone on the call to introduce themself.

2) Approve May meeting minutes: May PTO minutes were approved. Motion by Melissa seconded by Wendy Martin.

3) Principals Report

The school is as we all know different this year but the kids and staff are getting used to it. The teachers are working very hard and are starting to get more into learning. The kids are using seesaw. Picture day is coming up. The school will have a cyber Bubbler day soon. Parent pick up is going quite well.

4) Budget

The budget for the upcoming year was reviewed by Brook and the treasurers. There are some significant changes this year due to the inability to conduct certain events and changes to fundraisers. There was also a review to the budget last year and changes were made to more accurately predict what was needed in each line. The goal will be to conduct two fundraisers and raise $20,000 each. There were questions regarding how much of the money goes directly into the classroom. Brooke explained that each teacher receives $50 each for supply and there is a process for grants to cover additional expenses. A motion to approve the budget was made by Ashleigh. Melissa seconded the motion. All votes yes. The budget is approved.

5) Correspondence

No correspondence was received prior to this meeting.

6) Fundraising ideas

A) Flat donation: Mrs. Reed discussed a letter her school uses to ask for a flat donation for each student/household. Parents questioned how much would be asked to donate but seemed to be in favor of this idea. A small working group will work on modifying the letter.

B) Spirit Gear: Spirit Gear sales are already ahead of last year. We will continue to promote the spirit gear store.

C) Outdoor photos: An idea was presented to contact a local photographer to take pictures of families as a fundraiser. Mr. Boley suggested checking with Lifetouch since it their safety precautions have already been reviewed by other school district leadership.

D) Under the stars readingthon: An idea was use the concept of the bubblethon but modify it to reading.

E) Giftcards: One parent discussed using the Scripts App as a way to receive funds based from purchases of gift cards. It is a passive fundraiser that could be used throughout the year.

F) Lake Painting: Brooke discussed her idea and conversations with a local painter who is willing to commission a painting of the lake for a fundraiser. This idea was well received at the meeting.

G) Bingo Card: A idea was discussed to create a bingo card to be used as a scavenger hunt. Business could be asked for a donation to be placed on the card. Participants could provide pictures of their participation and then could receive a t-shirt.

7) Chair/Committee Reports/Updates

A) Bubblethon: Cannot happen in the fall. Hoping it could occur in the spring.

B) Box Tops: Will be moving all online through an app. An email will be sent asking parents to send remaining box tops and instruction for the App.

C) Rice Bookfair: The bookfair will be virtual this year (as are teacher conferences). Melissa is reaching out to organizers to see how teacher wishlists can be included and communicated to parents.

D) Communications: The schools are trying to limit what is sent home and try to use as much electronic communication possible.

E) Breakfast with Santa: As of now the normal event is not happening. The SMPTO has been trying to think of alternative ways to hold some sort of event and will reach out to South Middleton township in order to possibly work together.

F) Secret Santa Shop: The shop will have to be modified. There was discussion about online ordering. Will continue to generate ideas.

8) Old Business

A) Lanyards: The PTO purchased lanyards that will be distributed early next week to be used at school.

B) Sprit Gear Sale: The Spirit Gear sale provided an increase in sales compared to last year. There is a shipping option this year.

9) New Business

A) Grants: None received yet

B) Events on Hold Due to COVID-no volunteers are allowed in the school so most events are on hold. The school is working on an alternative for Halloween.

C) Chalk the Walk: Brooke discussed the idea of asking for volunteers to come to the outside of the school and write encouraging messages for students/staff on the driveway and sidewalk of the school.

D) Weekend Painting: Mr. Boley discussed the stencils that were bought last year. Volunteers could come and paint using the stencils. The painting would need to be done on a Friday/Saturday/or Sunday. The paint only takes a few hours to dry.

10) Open Floor

A) Mr. Boley thanked the PTO and teachers for their support

B) A parent thanked the principals for all of the work they and the teachers are doing this year

C) Next meeting will be October 22

A motion to adjoin the meeting was made by Sarah and seconded by Charlie. The meeting ended at 8:13pm.