

January PTO Meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:30 AM

In attendance: Christi Thomas, Amy Klus, Angie Commorato, Andrea Stanley, Amy Hahaj, Melissa Grey, Ashley Clarkson, Urooj Hassan, Kim Mark, Stephanie Nader, Justin Hirnisey

HSEF Updates: Justin Hirnisey attended the beginning of today's meeting to give general updates from HSEF and updates about the Game Day fundraiser. They are hoping to be able to offer a virtual option for people that are not able to make it in person. Whichever PTO basket brings in the most money wins 1000 for their school, second place 750, third place 500.

Justin discussed the possibility of HSEF hosting an accounting 101 class for PTO treasurers that the PTO thought would be beneficial.

We also discussed the use of Qtego for fundraising and the possibility of partnering with HSEF and other schools to reduce the fees we pay Qtego for our fall festival silent auction. Justin was meeting with Qtego later today and will report back on possible options for reducing costs.

President Update:

- Board Make-Up
 - Everyone from the board should email the presidents and let them know what they would like to do next year, if they would like to continue in their board position and/or participate on a committee.
 - Everyone should also do their best to recruit new members and let them know an information session will be happening in the next month or two more to come on that.
 - If you have a specific person interested in a specific role pass them along to the presidents so they can directly reach out.
- Game Day
 - Game day has been paid; basket will be dropped off on Tuesday – Thanks to Amy's husband for his donation to an awesome basket!
 - We get 6 tickets each year for this fundraiser, 2 go to the teacher of the year and a guest, 2 go to a support staff and a guest, 2 go to PTO members. The support staff that would get the tickets this year is no longer at Geist so there will be 4 tickets for Board members this year. A sign up for those interested will be sent out.
- 4th Grade Clap Out
 - Staff liked how the clap out went in 2021, parents prefer to have something happened outside
 - Christy is going to talk to staff and report back to the PTO for further discussion on what this will look like this year
- Bearded Dragon Grant
 - Motion to approve grant was made by Angie, Amy Klus seconded the motion
 - Mike will be coming to Geist!!!

VP Updates

- Staff Appreciation
 - Andrea is going to bring in something 2 times a month for teachers and has worked out a schedule with Christy

- Field Day: confirm date, format
 - It is always the last day of school, in the past Mr. Sutherlin has led that event and told the PTO what he needs. Suggestion to engage the committee lead Kate Chelimi to help organize this event. Andrea will reach out to Kate and Mr. Sutherlin to make sure preparations are being made for field day.
- PTO Corner
 - The school board is asking schools to streamline their newsletters and use S'more (which we already do). Considering this request, the question was raised of if we need to continue on with a PTO Corner given there will be PTO updates in the newsletter. More to come on that once the streamlined format is approved by the school board.

Principal and Teacher Liaison

- School News
 - Placemats from the service project were delivered to the nursing home and well received.
 - St. Johns was very appreciative of the care bags and pumpkin pies
 - Teachers are very grateful for all of the goodies provided through staff appreciation
 - A few 3rd and 4th grade classes are experimenting with teaming
- Teacher Needs
 - Yesterday was worst day of COVID so far with 8 positives
 - 13 staff members out today – subs are desperately needed. At this point the need is so high if people are able to sub for half days that is helpful as they are almost out of man power and in dire need
 - Another option for helping would be to relieve Kelly Pidcock in the library to free her up to help out in the classroom, Stephanie will email her to see what her needs are
 - There is still confusion about zoom, it is only for forced quarantines. If you are sick or on vacation you will not be offered a zoom if you are out.
- District News
 - New HSE elementary school is opening up and we did not get redistricted in the process

Secretary Updates

- Approve December Minutes
 - Stephanie will change the term fluff money to excess money from December minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes by Melissa Gray Angie seconded the motion
- disABILITY – 3/21-31 5 Lessons, cost split
 - Led by Lisa Keller, we hire a company that provides the curriculum, 4 lessons over a 2-week time frame
 - Questions about how is it funded and what is the cost – there is a budge line of 860.00 allocated for this. The invoice was 900.00 last year and the district paid for half last year as a one-time thing. This year Christy will cover the difference of cost beyond 860.00. Moving forward Christy has offered to cover 50% of this cost.
- Dine to Donate

- January 31st is Puccini's
- February will be Ohana's, March Ale Emporium, April Brusters (specific dates TBD)

Treasurer's Report

- Financials – Approve December
 - Angie motioned to approve, Kim seconded the motion
 - Only outstanding items from the fall festival are what we made off of the food trucks, Andrea will send a follow up email
 - We have budgeted to make \$1,200 on a movie night
 - We currently have 32,000 of excess money so we feel comfortable that if we are not able to have movie night and come up short on fundraising this year we will be okay and will not be in a position where we need to ask parents for more money.
- Spring Spirit Wear, need for K round up
 - 965.00 is what we have currently raised from spirit wear, we might try to coordinate with kindergarten round to offer incoming students to order spirit wear to increase sales
- Spring Flower Sale
 - We will plan to have a Chair person for this moving forward that will coordinate the mums and spring flower sale. For this year Stephanie will work on this with some hand off from Amy.

Members At Large

- Topsicle Tuesday
 - Currently planned for March 16th
- Movie Night
 - Would like to do it in spring, pending Covid restrictions
- Earth Day
 - The date is still TBD, usually around the 1st or 2nd week of May. Christi will talk to Ellen Cross about a date and copy Kim Mark in the emails
 - In past years it is has 4 rotations, 1 get a popsicle, 1 plant a flower, 1 Room parents plan an activity of some kind outside, 1 is a speaker on a topic related to earth. Grades come out in rotation and split in to classes so the speaker will have to speak to each class.
 - Volunteers help prep the dirt and get it ready for planting
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- Science Fair/ Science Night 2/10 & 2/25 F 6pm
 - Science night 2/25 is 6-8 and all of that is set up and ready to go
 - Science Fair 2/10 – PTO needs to organize judges and volunteers for the event. Susan Galiher is the teacher lead for this event. It is Feb 10th we provide ribbons, drinks and refreshments. Judges need to be there 8:30 – 12:00. Urooj is going to come up with a break down of what the needs are and who is responsible for what

The meeting adjourned at 12:55