

Exploris School PTO Meeting
August 26, 2014

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm by PTO President Khristi Tomlinson.

Attendees

Emily Parker, Sophia Olson, Antje Focke, Susan Bostian, Rachel Pohlman, Valerie Sayre, Cynthia Deis, Carrie Oliver, Pamela Lietz, Megan Hill, Betsy Brown, Gwennn Clarke, Ann Overton, David Melgar, Sandi Mayo, Elizabeth Bhar, Stephany Enders, Richard Warr, Scottie Barber, Carole Noyes, JJ Barton, Kristin Poirier, Pat FitzGerald, Debbie Kane, Evan Kane, Kristi Pettibone, Ben Pierce, Brooke Somers, Summer Clayton, Cheryl Rodgers, Helene Elliston, Julie Rosies, Shea Cleveland, Khristi Tomlinson, David Wisz

Welcome and Announcements

All Board members and Committee Chairs were introduced to the members in attendance. Khristi asked that all Committee Chairs create a how to page and place on the blog for future volunteers to follow. It would be located on the PTO resource page. The password will be provided by the PTO president. Anyone needing guidance with developing the how to page should consult Khristi Tomlinson or Aleesha Bake.

Lunch Update

Online ordering for middle School lunches started August 25, 2014 with the first day of delivery being September 8, 2014.

Lunch Order for the elementary school is still pending.

New Committees/Activities

- Silvia Terziotti has created an unofficial closed parent group on Facebook, and currently has over 100 parents currently signed up.
- Penney Lettie and Susuan Bostian are attempting to create a play group for the elementary school and need volunteers to assist.
- John Takacsy, France Guertin, and Ann Overton are attempting to create a playground and garden committee for the elementary school and need volunteers to assist. Summer thanked the parents for wanting to help with this, but asked that this committee work in collaboration with the teachers on this project to ensure that the students are provided with learning opportunities.
- JJ Barton is coordinating the Sunshine Committee for the elementary school and need volunteers to assist.
- Penney Lettie is coordinating the Teacher Snack Stash program. Parents are asked to donate snacks at least 3x yearly for the benefit of all the teachers.
- A Social Committee is being created to promote a sense of unity among the Exploris family in both the elementary and middle schools. The committee will address activities specifically targeted for just parents, just for kids, as well as activities for the entire family.

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- Currently a networking social is being planned for the adults at CAM. Various days were recommended for the social with the majority of the members leaning toward Thursday evening in October or November.
- A question was put before the members as to whether child care would be provided to parents needing this service. David Wisz recommended that the 8th graders offer this service at a cost and use the money to help fund their Outward Bound trip. The members present unanimously agreed with this recommendation.
- Exploris Fun Day at Pullen Park, coordinated by Lisa Harris, was reviewed.
 - Tons of elementary families attended.
 - A recommendation was made to have it at Fletcher Park in the future due to the large crowds and challenges with parking at Pullen Park. The recommendation was considered, but no vote was made at this time.
- Elementary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 - This activity is very specific in nature and will involve Exploris School Board members versus the PTO members.
- Fall Picnic coordinated by Lisa Harris
 - Projected for September 21, 2014, but not set.
 - Location is Pullen Park, but recommendations were made to consider Lake Benson, as well as the Museum of Art campus.

Budget Review

Revenue and expenses to date were reviewed. The projected budget for the 2013/2014 school year was \$98,200.00. Currently there is a surplus of \$17,743.00. The projected budget for the 2014/2015 school year is \$41,900.00.

Principal Report

Summer updated the members on the activities impacting the elementary school.

- The Certificate of Occupancy is still pending, but the start date for the first day of school is scheduled for September 22, 2014.
- Parents are asked to help with moving furniture and setting up the class rooms in the elementary school.
- Parents are asked to establish ways to build relationships with each other to develop a sense of community.
- Parents of Kindergartens will be asked to say good-bye to their children in a designated place to allow the child to walk into class alone.

Summer address a concern about the Back to School activities.

- Snow cones are nice, but cleaning up is a challenge for teachers if there is no janitor on duty after the activity.
 - Ensure everyone is throwing away trash appropriately.
 - Try to schedule activities during days that custodial services are available.
- Return of Forms
 - Identify a specific person to give forms to.
 - Have parents to place forms in a collection box in the classroom.

Teacher Activities

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- Grants chaired by Brad and Janey McMillian
 - Teachers prefer to make their needs known to a specific contact person versus having a list of possible grants given to them for review.

- Cultural Arts chaired by Susan Bostian
 - Deadline for grant is September 8, 2014
 - Must identify an artist
 - Need volunteers
 - Make it a relationship building activity after school versus a part of the school day to minimize stress on the teachers

Soap Sales Project

An overview of the soap sales project was given. Co-chairs are Cheryl Rogers and Coleen Getzen.

- Art competition for the soap sales is very competitive.
- Ideas to help the elementary students to cope with the possibility of not having their art work selected are greatly appreciated.

New Business

After discussion by the members, Cheryl Rogers made a motion to amend the articles of incorporation of the Exploris Middle School PTO to 'Exploris PTO' to reflect the inclusion of an elementary school. Motion was second by Shea Cleveland. The board members present unanimously voted to approve this amendment. A similar vote to amend the PTO Bylaws will be put before the general membership at the September 21st meeting.

Next Meeting

Khristi questioned the members about the best time and place to meet. Various responses were given. The next meeting is scheduled for the Fall Picnic on September 21, 2014. Specific place and time will be posted on the web site.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.