

Exploris PTO Board Meeting October 16, 2014

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by PTO President Khristi Tomlinson.

Prior meeting minutes were previously approved by board online.

Members in attendance

Khristi Tomlinson, Cheryl Rodgers, Brooke Somers, Candice Robinson, April Hansley, Marie Vedetta, Ann Whitehurst, Dana Deaton, Aleesha Bake, Penney Lettie, Coleen Getzen, Amy Fitzgerald, Holly Taylor, Emily Parker, Sophia Olson, Sandi Mayo, David Melgar

Adult Social

Chair – Khristi Tomlinson. Adult Social at CAM on October 22nd. Porchetta Food Truck has been arranged – \$400 minimum required; Khristi will be asking for a fundraising donation back from them if minimum is met. Babysitting being provided by 8th graders for a suggested fee of \$5 per hour which will then be applied to the 8th grade volunteers Outward Bound account to reduce cost of attending field trip. Details posted on Blog.

Soap Sales

Chair – Coleen Getzen. PTO Fundraiser will be kicking off this month, forms will be sent home before MS fall break, and Aleesha Bake is working on online ordering for the first time this year. Samples of scents, order forms, and student art will be available at the Adult Social at CAM on October 22nd. Everything is running as planned.

Additions to Agenda

Playground - Use of playground at corner of Hargett and Swain – It was proposed that the playground could be used by the school and Candice confirmed that she has already been in touch with owner. Concern of owner is that it is small so school would need to work out a class rotation schedule for use. Although recognized as a low priority, parents want to see more done in regards to a play at the elementary school and are willing to help.

Morning Greet Bake Sale – It was proposed that other schools have used morning bake sales to raise money. Also could serve as a social event. Concerns over logistics and fundraising fatigue presented so tabled for now.

Fundraising – Ideas were presented and time spent fielding general fundraising ideas (shows, bake sales, additional passive fundraisers, and more) due to the message that the school is lacking funding, especially on lower priorities like the playground. Parents are in need of a succinct message on the method and goal for the funding and timing of high, as well as low, priority items or ideas and the avenue of communication for future requests.

Middle School “CompostNow” Mini-Grant Request

Request for a \$272.35 mini-grant to pilot a program to reduce the waste stream out of the middle school, was received from Shannon (6th grade teacher and lead in our successful application to be nationally recognized as a Green Ribbon school) was granted. Project has been worked on by students for the last year and the goal is for the landlord to assume compost costs due to their ability to reduce garbage removal fees. Aleesha Bake presented motion to pass, Brooke Somers seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Defining Future Role of Exploris PTO

The Exploris Board requested that the PTO play an active role in creating and supporting a feeling of community among Exploris families. One way to do this is through organizing more social events and activities for adults and families. Some events will have expenses that need to be covered; Summer and Khristi have worked on better delineating what costs the PTO budget is expected to cover and what costs the school budget will cover. In general, programs and events which impact and benefit the whole school will look to the PTO for funding. Programs and events that are tied to curriculum that support teachers, classrooms, or grade levels will be handled by the school.

Exploris PTO Board Meeting October 16, 2014

PTO Budget Modification

As detailed below, a motion was made by Penney Lettie, seconded by April Hansley, and approved unanimously by general members present to modify the PTO budget to reflect the PTO's role in creating and supporting a feeling of community among Exploris parents and to transfer funds from the PTO's reserve to cover immediate unmet needs of the school due to unexpected costs associated with the growth of Exploris. Additionally, due to the scope of this funding modification, the proposed budget changes will be presented to the full board for additional vote since not all were in attendance.

- 1) Exploris' Annual Fund (note – this is not a PTO's fundraiser, but the school's) will be kicking off in October with a goal of \$100,000. With the success of the Annual Fund, Summer will have the revenue needed to meet the needs of previously PTO mini-grant funded, curriculum-related extras. This change will allow PTO funding to be freed up to be used to nurture a sense of community among Exploris families through social events for adults and families. It was proposed to:

Move \$2000 out of the \$3500 "Mini-Grant" line item and into a newly created "Social" line item. The Mini-Grant line item will keep the remaining \$1500 (\$250 which has been used) this year as we transition away from funding curriculum related needs.

- 2) Despite careful planning, unexpected construction overruns associated primarily with the City of Raleigh adding additional requirements, have impacted Summer's ability to complete outfitting the elementary school with some basic needs (additional chairs, tables, storage, wi-fi cards for SAS donated computers, etc...). The middle school also has some basic needs that need to be addressed (replacement of broken tables). Teachers and staff from both schools were solicited by Summer and Candice for a list of needs and wants which have since been prioritized by administration resulting in the need for funds in the range of \$8000-\$12,000. It was proposed to:

Transfer \$10,000 from PTO reserves to a new "Growth Costs" line item to cover the cost of items needed immediately. This will leave the PTO with approximately \$30,000 in reserves.

Brainstorm of Possible Events for Exploris Social Calendar

Parent Running Club
Parent Walking Club
Friday Play Day (on campus grounds or near campus get together)
Triangle Rock Climbing Club
Go Play Outside
Defy Gravity
Frisbee Golf (Centennial Campus possibly)
Lake Benson/White Deer Park Gathering
Adventure Landing
Prairie Ridge
Movie Night on elementary campus
Elementary School Open House Event for middle school parents and students (could include games like Tug of War, Kick Ball, etc...and have Kona Ice onsite)
Bike Ride
Participate in outside organizations events as a group to reduce logistical planning and volunteer needs (example - Oak City Cycling Project's Kidical Mass Bike Ride (play on "critical mass").

A protocol should be established on the best ways to promote and organize events keeping in mind the priority for events for K-8 when possible.