

# Exploris PTO Board Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2015

The Exploris PTO Board Meeting was held in the Elementary Art room and was open to all parents and staff.

**In attendance:** Brooke Somers, Christine Hutchens, Summer Clayton, Kari Williams, Shea Cleveland, Kristin Kauffman Corson, Cheryl Rodgers, Steven McLeod

August minutes were approved by board members via Survey Monkey

## **Budget Update:**

- 22 Google Chromebooks will be purchased for the elementary school and are budgeted under “equipment grants”
- Composting educational grant is still in the works. \$280 is being asked for. Composting is currently coming out of “educational programs.”

## **Board Meeting Update**

- Board meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at the middle school. All meetings are open to the public and all minutes are made public.
- The elementary school lease is two years with the option to extend. Negotiations are in place with the landowner for the 2016-2017 school year. The lease started at \$3,500/month and will be going up to \$4,500/month.
- The Exploris School Board is working on a new site; an announcement will be coming soon.
- Strategies change:
  - by 2021, the school population should reflect the general population of the local community to increase diversity of the school. This will be attained via a weighted lottery beginning with the next lottery (2016 for the 2016-2017 school year) through 2021 in order to increase students who are at an economical disadvantage.
  - Currently, 8% of student families (~36 students) identify themselves as economically disadvantaged. The goal is to have 25% of student families fall into this category. More planning is needed to offer support (lunches, teachers, materials) for this strategic plan as the current 36 students do not have enough needed support.
  - The board wants to increase this population to 10% for the 2017-2018 school year, and continue to increase by 5% each year until a total of 25% is attained during the 2020-2021 school year. The 8% goal for the 2016-2017 school year has already been met.

## Upcoming Events

- **Soap Sales** close November 4, 2015. Artwork is up on the blog; approximately 25 orders have already been received.
- **Spirit wear:** the site will be opened to get orders before winter break. The school colors are purple/teal, not purple/green.
- **Fall middle school dance** (November 13, 2015): Penny Lettie and Ann Whitehurst are in charge of the dance and will be looking for volunteers and chaperones. Goal: keep the cost at \$5/students to make it more affordable for all middle school students. Tickets will be sold at the event.
- **Craft fair** during the Raleigh Christmas parade (November 21, 2015): there have been approximately 12 applicants. Kids, parents, and outside vendors may sign up. Monies received will go toward the Outward Bound trip.

## Review of past events:

- Soap art contest has concluded
- Adult Social:
  - a survey went out regarding attendance.
    - The #1 reason (28%) people didn't attend was "other" (work, conflicts etc.).
    - 10% said babysitting was an issue.
    - 21% said weeknights aren't good.
  - The adult social was started for parents who wanted to meet other parents and socialize; fundraising was later added.
  - May need to consider another adult only social that is not as formal.
- Annual Campaign kicked off October 14, 2015 and is up to \$30,000 already
- Fall picnic: may have it earlier next year; may need to have it 1-2 weeks into the school year.

## Next Meeting: `

- morning seems to be best for most people
- if it's at the elementary school, it must be completed by 11a.m.
- if it's at the middle school, it could be after 1:30p.m.
- the free parking garage near the middle school is available until 4p.m.
- the art room at the middle school is usually available from 12-1:30.