

**Exploris General PTO Meeting
September 22, 2013
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by PTO President Cheryl Rogers.

A quorum was not required due to this being an informational meeting only. For this reason attendance was taken for officers only.

Officers in attendance: Janey McMillen, Brad McMillen, Shea Cleveland, Christine Hutchens, Cheryl Rodgers, David Wisz, Kate Wisz, Virginia Jurkins, Laura Corder, Khristi Tomlinson

PTO Board Members in attendance were introduced, and the completed activities for the 2013/2014 school year were reviewed.

Review of Passive Fundraising

Soap sale will kick off the end of October after the students' fall break. Discussion followed which conflicted with this timeline. Solution was to table this discussion and follow-up with Billie about the timeline. The actual dates will be posted on the blog.

Facebook Target campaign was extended for another week.

October School Dance

Cheryl gave an overview of the cost of the October School Dance, and the reason why the dance is \$15.00 per person. In order to lower this cost, another venue will need to be located offering a lower cost than the current venue, which is the PNC Arena. The total cost for the PNC has been around \$1900 per dance. Any recommended venue for the dances will need to accommodate up to 165 people. Information concerning catering of the food, DJ insurance, and pick up and drop off points must be included when making a recommendation for another venue. The proposed venue should also be centrally located.

The next dance other than the Frolic is projected for the spring, around May 2014.

School Pictures

Makeup picture day is October 7, 2013. Money must be paid in advance for the pictures, and the form for the pictures are on the Exploris PTO website.

Directory Map

Members were given an overview of how to use the directory map, and were cautioned not to use it for solicitation or selling.

A discussion about students standing at the bus stop alone resulted in the following question and answer.

- Question: Can the bus stops be placed on the map?

Exploris General PTO Meeting

September 22, 2013

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

- Answer: Not sure how much work is required to do that. A recommendation is to look at the directory and submit a query to determine if anyone is interested in their child having a bus stop mate.

Updates from Summer

Summer thanked the families for all they do for Exploris; and stated that events like the picnic solidify us as a community.

Exploris Reputation:

Summer reviewed the positive reputation that Exploris has in North Carolina and globally; and how Exploris host university students, from both Japan and North Carolina, who are interested in teaching as a career.

Pass the Hat Campaign

Summer reviewed the cost differences between Exploris and the county schools. Exploris pays rent, and county schools pay zero.

She asked for 100% participation from all families, and any amount of donation they chose was acceptable.

K – 8 Expansion

Summer stated that once a building is secured, it will take a minimum of three years to renovate. Depending on the size of the building, the group served may be K – 5, or K – 2, or just kindergarten.

As a result of the discussion, the following question was asked:

- *Question:* Why go kindergarten through 5 versus 5 through kindergarten?
- *Answer:* Going from kindergarten through 5th grade is based on recruiting needs. Starting with kindergarten streamlines the recruitment process, whereas starting with 5th grade and going down will result in 5th graders being recruited every year.

Next Meeting

There will be no general PTO meeting at the October dance.

Next meeting will be announced on the blog.