MARGARET BEEKS PTO

MEETING – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS (Dawn Owczarski, President)

* Dawn Owczarski welcomed the attendees and thanked them for coming to the meeting.
* All other Board Members introduced themselves.
* Matt Roberts, VP, was unable to attend because his wife just had a baby.

1. TREASURER’S REPORT (Nichole Marsden, Treasurer)

* Emily Redding, Secretary, moved to approve the budget.
* After some discussion, the budget approval was tabled to further review the expenses.

1. PRINCIPAL’S UPDATE (Micah Mefford, Principal)

* Micah Mefford shared with the group the various items he would like to purchase for the school:
  + four folding picnic tables ($839)
  + Dream Box
  + five additional two-way radios ($900)
* Lunch on the lawn will take place on Thursday, 9/22
  + Sheets will come home telling parents as to when lunches will take place
  + Parents will need to sign up and pay ahead of time if they want to purchase lunch that day
* November 19th is the fourth grade Fine Arts Night.
* Cub Connections (old Adventure Club) is now being run by the school. It is up and running and enrollment is up 15%.

1. TEACHER’S COMMITTEE UPDATES (Micah Mefford, Principal)

* Mr. Mefford reported on the various projects the teachers would like funded:
  + Make the pre k/k sandbox into a deck/stage (Mr. Mefford will fund this project.)
  + Would like to get some bikes and trikes for those children who do not like to play on the playground equipment
    - Will take donations of new and used bikes and helmets
    - Asking for $220 to purchase a large trike (for those children who can’t ride a bike yet)
* One Book One School – The book chosen by the committee is *Matilda* by Roald Dahl.
  + There are several teachers who have concerns that this book is inappropriate.
  + Mr. Mefford likes this book because for some of our students this book reflects real life and school is a safe place.
  + He is open to feedback, and several parents took home the book to review.
  + Mr. Mefford will make a final decision about the book in a couple of weeks.
  + Unfortunately, if we return the books we will lose money. Either way, we will keep the books.
* Mr. Mefford would like a non-fiction monthly magazine for every student to use in the classroom.
  + *Scholastic News* magazine would cost each student approximately $6/year for each student to receive a magazine every month.
  + Mr. Mefford will ask each family to pay for the magazines for their children.

1. COMMITTEE UPDATES

* There are several open committee positions.
* The office desperately needs office volunteers during lunch (11:30-1:00) and at the end of the day.
  + Holly McFall has offered to head up this committee.
* Books for Breakfast
  + The first Books for Breakfast will be on Thursday, 9/17.
  + This year students do not have to buy breakfast to receive a book.
  + Breakfast will be “grab n’ go”
  + Teacher Appreciation
* Sylvia Davis asked for volunteers to help co-chair this committee.
* Mr. Wang volunteered to co-chair the Teacher Appreciation Committee, and Erin Parker volunteered to help out.
* Labels for Education (Campbell’s and Pepperidge Farm)
  + Nichole reported that each label is worth only 1 cent, and it is not a cash reward.
  + We earn points and must use a catalog to redeem the rewards.
  + Currently, we have 35,000 points.
  + Nichole suggested we do not push Labels for Education because we are spending almost as much in postage as what we are getting out of it.
  + The PTO supported this.
* Beeks Speaks – Nichole asked the group if the newsletter was being utilized.
  + Several people stated they use the newsletter, so Nichole will continue writing it.
* Kroger Rewards – Dawn reminded everyone to re-enroll for the Kroger Rewards program.
* Book Fairs – November 18-20 & April 6-8 (Allison Skinner is chairing)

# BUDGET

* Yvonne made a motion for the PTO to purchase the picnic tables ($839), the two-way radios ($900) and the trike ($220).
  + The motion passed, and the PTO will purchase these items.
* Nichole Marsden, Treasurer, suggested we make the following changes to the current budget:
  + Increase the landscaping budget by $200 and take the picnic tables from that line item
  + Increase Read-A-Thon budget to $6,500
  + Add $300 to the Principal’s Discretionary budget
  + Add $900 to the Principal’s Discretionary budget (taken from Teacher/Staff Requests) & ear-mark $900 for the radios
  + Take the trike purchase from the Teacher/Staff Requests line item
* Emily Redding proposed that we approve the budget with the above changes.
  + The budget was approved.

1. NEW ISSUES

* Playground Balls – Mr. Mefford will pay for these
  + To help alleviate the issues of playground equipment not being taken care of properly, Mr. Mefford is purchasing wristbands for each class. Each class will have an equipment manager (will wear the wristband) to help keep track of playground equipment.
* After-School STEM classes (now called B3 – Bricks, Bots & Beakers)
  + Lindsay Barron will be offering classes at Beeks.
  + She proposed some new classes for the fall.
  + The first session will begin in September.
* Little Free Library
  + Dawn asked that the PTO pay the $40.45 to officially register Beek’s Little Free Library.
  + Motion approved to pay and register the Little Free Library
* Health Screenings
  + The school nurse needs 8 volunteers to help with the health screenings on Friday, 9/11 from 9-10:30 am.
* Non-Fiction Book Project
  + Lisa Belden funds this project personally and would like a line item added to the budget so that she can get a tax deduction.

1. OTHER CONCERNS

* Steve Sutphen discussed the Belk Charity Sale and asked if anyone would be interested in taking this on for Beeks.
* Mr. Mefford needs volunteers for parking on Sunday at Beeks for the Brad Paisley Concert and Monday at Harding for the Tech football game.
* Class Parents
  + There are still several teachers who do not have class parents.
  + Mr. Mefford will email the staff to see if they want PTO to facilitate this.
* The next PTO meeting is on Thursday, October 1st at 8:00 am. Mr. Wang suggested we each bring a friend to the meeting.