MARGARET BEEKS PTO

MEETING – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015 8:00AM

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS (Dawn Owczarski, President)
* Dawn Owczarski welcomed the attendees and thanked them for coming to the meeting.
* Dawn introduced our guest, newly appointed School Board Member Connie Froggatt.
1. GUEST SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CONNIE FROGGATT
* Reminded parents of the Superintendent Candidate Forum tonight from 6-9pm.
* Gave details of suggestions of what to look and listen for.
* Encouraged attendees to email the board members via email on website.
1. TREASURER’S REPORT (Nichole Marsden, Treasurer)
* October Income:
* $2,800 from Kroger for first quarter
* $500 from Mr. Wang to be earmarked for DreamBox
* October expenses: purchased picnic tables
* Questions regarding Kroger: We have budgeted to receive $11,000 of income from Kroger, and we have already earned $6,000. We need to keep encouraging people to sign up.

1. PRINCIPAL’S UPDATE (Micah Mefford, Principal)
* 200-250 people attended the School Cook-out. Even though we have lost our Title 1 status, we still have 32% of our students receiving free/reduced lunch. The number of attendees at the cook-out was a reminder that we should have events that provide food more often.
* We have received the picnic tables, and one of the four have been assembled.
* Radios are in and charged. These new radios help with better reception and make sure the Crisis Plan can be executed well at any time.
* Yearbook – Dawn and Laura will be leading. They need to talk to Susan regarding software and training.
* School pictures this year: Clicks! was much more profitable than Lifetouch.
* Book Fair proceeds go to the school, not the PTO. The information in the email was incorrect.

G. OLD ISSUES (during Mr. Mefford’s Principal update, we discussed the “Old Issues”)

* Discussion on DreamBox Software Program. Current math software programs used in the school: IXL (focuses more on test prep) and Reflex (focuses more on fact fluency). Reflex can be used at homes. DreamBox will self adjust to each student and one 5th grade student was able to complete Algebra 1 on the program. It costs $6,500 per year for the whole school to use it.
* There is a concern over the lack of funds after asking parents to donate $6 per student for the Scholastic Magazine order (only raised $500 to cover $1,700).
* We don’t want to let our purchasing get ahead of our training. We need to make sure we have the personnel and infrastructure before adding more technology. But we will never catch up on technology.
* Could we use Donors Choose? (program many teachers have used to get technology in classrooms)
* Montgomery County Education Foundation (Connie Froggatt is active in this foundation) gives up to $20,000 to support education in the county. She encourages us to apply.
* Teachers are split 50-50 regarding the necessary purchasing of DreamBox at $6,500 per school year.
* Mr. Mefford said he would split the subscription for this year. After this year, the PTO would be in charge of purchasing it annually if it wants to continue to support DreamBox.
* Motion to modify how much we provide. The PTO will provide $3,250 for DreamBox for this year. (Lisa made motion. Nichole 2nd)

NOTE: The annual budget was revised to reflect the vote to fund 50% ($3,250) of MBE's annual DreamBox license.

The following changes have been made on the income side:

-A $500 Technology Earmark was added to reflect Mr. Wang's donation

-A line item for Savings use of $2,314.89 was added under the Total Income to reflect the $1,564.89 in 2014 readathon technology earmark + the $750 in direct savings use which were applied against the dreambox expense but were not earned as income in this year.

On the expense side:

-One Book One School was reduced from $2000 to $1725 based on actual spend, and the remaining was applied applied toward balancing budget to allow for Dreambox.

-Back to School night was reduced from $200 to $40 based on funds not needed, and the remaining was applied toward balancing budget to allow for Dreambox.

A technology fund expense line item was added for $3,250 to which the DreamBox check was applied.

Our estimated income remained unchanged at $24,200 to which we added approved $2,314.89 in savings use. Estimated expenses increased to $26,515, showing a yearly loss of $2,315.00 (offset by savings use above)

* Margaret Beeks Lego Club – Beeks covered $1,000 for the two Lego teams representing Beeks. PTO is being asked to support $87 for a Lego Club Kit. These kits will be up to date for the next four years. Motion Passed (Faith made motion. Yvonne 2nd).
1. TEACHER’S COMMITTEE UPDATE
* Mrs. Alden requested $50 to buy software apps for her kindergarten students which include reading and math. Motion passed (Lisa made motion. Yvonne 2nd)

# COMMITTEE UPDATES

* Restaurant Night – Karen Howe reported that the first Restaurant Night was at PKs. They gave 20% of all orders (whether someone showed the flyer or not). She will hear soon from the restaurant to find out how much they made. The next restaurant night is at Mellow Mushroom on Monday, December 7th.
* Taste of Countries – Holly McFall reported that the Taste of Countries will be Thursday, December 3rd from 6-7:30pm. Students will receive a passport to go to different counties and experience a “lay over” for a time of dancing. Please sign-up on the links for both to represent a country and for a help signup.
1. NEW ISSUES
* PTO Book purchase subsidized for students for Guest Author Feb 29- Proposal by Yvonne: Cece Bell will be talking about her new book, I YAM A DONKEY, when she visits us on the 29th of February. In the past, the PTO has provided the opportunity for our students to order books to be signed by the guest author. The book is a hardback full color book that costs $16.99. We can get the books for $11.47 through Barnes and Noble. Would the PTO be interested in subsidizing the books so that we can offer them for less? If we could sell them for $7.00, many kids could get a copy. Asking PTO for $200 to go toward book subsidy, which would be added to the $200 surplus from the Guest Author line item. Discussion: no motion. Table to talk later. Look into prices at other locations (i.e. Imaginations Toy Store or buy on Amazon using our Amazon Smile account)

I. QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

* Asked about update for One Book One Child using the book “Matilda”. The school already bought the books, but as of now, only 3rd grade and 5th grade will be reading them. Mr. Mefford says he has plenty of extra for anyone who would like a copy.
* The New Underware and Sock Drive is happening this month.
* Our next meeting will be an abbreviated meeting at the beginning of Taste of Countries Event on December 3rd at 6pm.