

### **Grundy PTO Meeting – Monday Oct 29, 2018**

Meeting was called to order by Jessica Belsly at 6:33pm. Those in attendance were Gina Strubhar, Holly Manthey, Mike Manthey, Erin Clayton, Julie LeMasters, Sara Dally, Toni Martiens, Amanda Wright, Erica Kennedy, Dan Beckler, Elise Pate, Janine Weyland, and Jessica Belsly.

The Minutes from the Sept 24, 2018 PTO meeting were reviewed and approved.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Accelerated Reading – Sara Daly and Elise Pate – both present. Seeking teacher suggestions for potential prizes that could include items like homework passes, lunch with teacher or staff or friends. Chairs were encouraged to continue discussions with teachers and staff to make sure some of the ideas are aligned to individual teacher's classroom operations.

After School Clubs – No chair. Chess Club is currently underway.

Book Fair – Jessica Belsly, present & Andrea White, not present. Next event is planned for Spring and they are considering a dinosaur theme. Andrea attended the Lincoln Elementary book fair to see what it was like using a different company.

Box Tops for Education – Erica Kennedy, present. Thanks to the committee and helpers in organizing and counting the 7,834 box tops and 476 bonus slips! A second collection will occur in March 2019.

Carnival – Holly & Mike Manthey, present. The date for the carnival is set for March 15, 2019 although they are still looking for a theme. Some options discussed was Dinosaurs (maybe involving resources from the potential Book Fair dino theme?), A Night at the Zoo, Outer Space / NASA / Star Wars. They intend to bring inflatables again this year, and are looking for face painter options. They intend to keep in mind that the face painting station can easily become a bottleneck.

Fannie May – Gina Strubhar, present & Jackie Elsesser, not present. Candy delivery and pickup has been moved up to Tuesday, Nov 6, and Gina is reaching out to volunteers to alert them to the earlier date. Money will be due Monday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>.

Fast Food Nights – Dan Beckler, present. Date has been set with La Gondola for Monday, Nov 19, with 20% of all sales that day accompanied by flyer to be donated to Grundy PTO. Discussions underway for a potential event with Papa Murphy's in December. Discussion with the meeting attendees about interest in a potential "Grundy Night" with the Peoria Chiefs in Spring 2019. Grundy attendance could be increased by combining with discounted food nights, timing the event with Morton Elementary Schools Choir singing the national anthem, nights with fireworks, allowing the kids to go on the field, etc. The group also leaned towards having the event still in the 2018-2019 school year rather than over the summer. Preliminary conversation indicates the Grundy families would be seated as a group with a specific block of tickets that are expected to be \$12 each with \$5 of each of those tickets going back to the Grundy PTO. Dan will reach out to the Chiefs for additional information.

Grundy Gear – Mr. Saunders, not present. Planning another order in the Spring.

Laugh Olympics – Jayne Eisenman, not present. No update. More information expected closer to the end of the school year.

Mystery Science – Jessica Belsly, present. Still organizing some of the supplies and filling remaining items.

Picture Person – No chair. Still seeking a chair to coordinate the sessions – lessons are already created and some of the supplies stocked.

PTO Publicity – Andrea White, not present. Bulletin Board was turned over to Mrs. Fisher for One School One Book and will be remade back to PTO topics after that wraps up in mid-Nov.

Room Parent Coordinators – Tiffany Parrott, not present. The Halloween Parade will be for K-3 this Wednesday, Oct 31 at 1:15pm, with the class parties starting immediately afterwards.

School Supply Kits – Ashley Smith, not present. No updates expected until Spring.

Teacher Appreciation – Sarah Chadbourn, not present. Breakfast scheduled for Thursday, Nov 15 and will be provided by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. Treat boxes will be organized in December with a reminder going out to parents closer to that time.

Yearbook – Amanda Wright, present. A cover was selected for the yearbook – the winning design carried roughly 60% of the 149 votes. A suggestion was made to consider letting students vote for the design in future years. Additional training is being set up for the yearbook software. Please send in pics that include names and dates of those pictured. Some discussion of setting up a Google Drive folder for photo storage.

### **Maintenance of List of Donations from Businesses**

No update.

### **Budget Report:**

Sara Dally, Julie LeMasters, present. Money received from Hacienda Fuentes and money going out for classroom parties, puppet show, babysitter gift cards, PE & recess equipment.

### **Old Business**

- One School One Book (OSOB) Update – Feedback was solicited regarding OSOB which is currently underway. The overall reaction has been positive, with people remarking that it was nice and enjoyable to have family time together. Some additional comments:
  - Some families indicated they were running behind the reading schedule due to other family obligations and tended to try to use the weekends for catch up. Some found that difficult given the “double assignment” scheduled for the weekends. A suggestion was made to consider allowing weekends to be “catch up time” if the program is repeated next year.
  - Appreciation that no reading scheduled for Halloween.

- The length of the nightly reading was too much for some younger kids, causing lots of fidgeting for various reasons – only a few pictures in the book to occupy the kids attention was mentioned by some in relation to the “fidgeting”.
- Some confusion class-to-class about whether the OSOB reading assignment was in addition to or a replacement for regular nightly reading assignments. Suggestion was made to work with teachers so OSOB could replace the regular reading homework.

### **New Business**

- Funding proposal for “Freckle” software for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade from Mrs. Bazzetta – Freckle is an app for math, reading, and science. It differs from other apps by performing an assessment upon entering the app. From there it identifies potential deficiencies and sets levels accordingly. Students can earn virtual, app-specific “coins” and use them to “shop” to upgrade their avatar and decorations. The ability for the app to extend the challenge beyond 6<sup>th</sup> Grade material is useful as well, and the present “challenge” level for the student is masked. The teacher reports are robust. At present, the PTO is unsure of the cost of the app or the extent it would be intended to be used in the school. The PTO requests more information to be provided prior to further discussion.
- Discussion of Screenagers documentary – Lettie Brown’s PTO is sponsoring a screening of the Screenagers documentary at Bertha Frank on Monday, Nov 19. The film is roughly 70 minutes in length. The film explores how teens interact with each other using devices and technology such as phones, computers, social media, etc. and examines whether parents can or should try to put boundaries around these behaviors. The material does not necessarily provide direction to families, but rather explores the research and leaves it to a family to decide how to apply the findings in their own homes. The material is geared to 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> graders and older – younger kids will probably not be able to engage very well. It is encouraged for parents to watch with their older children.
- Reminder about Family Read Night on Nov 15 – They are planning snacks, a craft, and reading time related to The Masterpiece and the conclusion of One School, One Book.

### **Teacher Input**

Janine Weyland, present. Thanks for the teacher appreciation activities and work done by the parents and PTO.

- Mrs. Weyland would like for the PTO to consider bringing authors into the school to provide a presentation in a school assembly, thinking it would be very motivating to the students to hear from working authors about their writing, life experiences, etc. Generally, it can be assumed to take up to 2 years to book some authors. Several schools could work together and pool resources to bring in an author. Scholastic, for instance, does have options for scheduling Skype sessions with authors rather than a personal appearance.
- Mrs. Weyland also asked the PTO to consider reviving the Fine Arts event near the end of the school year and/or presentations involving pottery, welding, sewing, or other activities around the arts.
- She thanked the group for continuing to provide great meals!

## **Principal's Report**

Oct 31	Halloween parade and parties at 1:15
Nov 1	5 <sup>th</sup> grade maturation program at 1:15
Nov 2	Band clinic from 3:00-5:00 at MJHS
Nov 4	Daylight Saving Time Ends (fall back 1 hour)
Nov 6	Election Day; Fannie May pick-up from 2:30-6:30; Board meeting at 6:30
Nov 7	Fannie May pick-up from 7:30-10:30 and 1:00-2:00; Dismissal at 1:10
Nov 9	Hearing/Vision re-screening; Veterans Day Ceremony at 2:00
Nov 12	Thanksgiving Food Drive begins
Nov 13	Madrigals performance; Board meeting at 7:15
Nov 15	PTO Breakfast at 7:30
Nov 16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Mid-Term
Nov 19	Fannie May money due; Thanksgiving Food Drive ends; Grundy Day at LaGondola from 11am-9pm; "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" at 1:15; Screenagers movie at 6:30 at BF
Nov 21-25	Thanksgiving break
Nov 26	PTO meeting at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Beckler.