

Grundy PTO Meeting – Monday, August 26, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Erica Kennedy at 6:32pm. Those in attendance were Ashley Smith, Denise Martin, Erica Kennedy, Erin Clayton, Michael Saunders, Jill Veskauf, Sara Dally, Toni Martiens, Gina Strubhar, Anna Bennett, Angel Fisher, Rachel Stokoe, Tracy Formhals, Krista Donnelly, Elise Pate, Holly Manthey, Mike Manthey, and Dan Beckler.

Attendees went around the table introducing themselves.

The Minutes from the May 20, 2019 PTO meeting were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports:

Accelerated Reading – Sara Dally, present, and Elise Pate, present. AR Prize Patrol is planning on having 3 stores this year for 2nd through 6th Grades, starting with the first in January. The first store is always delayed to allow time for the students to begin to collect sufficient AR points.

After School Clubs – Mr. Saunders, present. Running Club started last week with 57 students spread across 4th-6th Grade, which is a big turnout! Chess Club with Mr. Webb returning as coach is expected to start in Oct. Mrs. Eisenman is planning to have Sports Club this year, which will rotate among several different sports every week or so. We are encouraging Grundy families with a passion for specific activities and an interest in forming a club to contact Mr. Saunders. In the past, we've had clubs involving art, crafts, dance, cooking, first aid, etc. A typical club runs for 4-6 weeks with a 1 hour weekly meeting held after school.

Book Fair – Andrea White, not present, Gina Strubhar, present. The Fall Book Fair brought in \$3,979.70 which is the biggest Fall Book Fair to date. This was also the first time the Fall Book Fair was held exclusively in the new gym. 40 books were provided for the birthday cart and 30 books provided as AR prizes. The new eWallet purchase option debuted this year and 20 students purchased books and posters via eWallet.

Box Tops for Education – Erica Kennedy, present. Box Tops changed significantly this year. Actual Box Tops will still be collected in October and February as before. Also, a purchase receipt will be scanned via the Box Top app. The new process makes it difficult to track donations by class, so if a \$1,000 school-wide goal is reached this year, a celebration event will be arranged for the school. Both actual Box Tops and scanned receipts will contribute toward the school-wide goal.

Carnival – Holly Manthey, present, Mike Manthey, present. The carnival date is currently scheduled for Friday, Feb 28, 2020. They will need someone to coordinate the donation baskets. Erica and Tim Kennedy are planning to chair Carnival for 2020-2021.

Fannie May – Gina Strubhar, present. The kickoff assembly is scheduled for Oct 4 at 1:30pm, orders would be due Tuesday, Oct 15, candy pickup tentatively scheduled for Nov 5 & 6, and money to be collected and turned in by Monday, Nov 18.

Fast Food Nights – Dan Beckler, present. Kona Ice event was held at Grundy on Aug 22. The next event will be at Great Harvest in Morton on Tuesday, Sept 24 all day with 15% of sales accompanied by a flyer donated back to Grundy. The Pizza Ranch event will be Monday, Oct 21 and a Sign-Up Genius will be used for volunteer sign up.

Grundy Gear – Mr. Saunders, present. There will be a Fall and a Spring order this year through Grimm's. Order forms will go out soon for the Fall order and orders will be due within 2 weeks. Students and staff are encouraged to wear any Grundy Gear on Fridays.

Laugh Olympics – Jayne Eisenman, not present. No update.

Mystery Science – Anna Bennett, present. All supplies have been purchased and the lessons are ready to go for teacher use.

Picture Person – Sara Dally, present. The supply cabinet has been cleaned out and organized for the year. Sara is needing volunteer presenters for 2nd and 6th Grades. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles are encouraged to volunteer to present to both classes in a grade. The lessons are already organized and just need someone to present the lesson.

PTO Publicity – Andrea White, not present. Andrea is asking for any items for the September bulletin board and/or Facebook to be sent directly to her.

Room Parent Coordinators – Tiffany Parrott, not present. Initial communications to volunteers expected to go out soon.

School Supply Kits – Ashley Smith, present. For this school year, 45 paper orders and 66 online orders were placed by families for supply kits. The PTO attendees were satisfied with the current school supply kit provider and we will continue to use them for next Spring. Depending on the particular grade, supply kits range from \$35 to \$60 per kit, but does provide an exact match to what items and brands the teachers are requesting of the students.

Teacher Appreciation – Krista Donnelly, present. First day lunch was provided by families and the next event will be a breakfast hosted by 6th Grade families on Sept 12. All items are typically delivered and setup for the teachers by 7:45am. A Sign-Up Genius survey will soon go out to 6th Grade families for the breakfast.

Maintenance of List of Donations from Businesses

No items

Budget Report:

Sara Dally present, Julie Fauber, not present. Received \$715 from Amazon and Kroger. Outgoing expenses include Book Fair and Teacher Fund.

Old Business

- Explore options for families to contribute to Grundy PTO via card payment.

Further investigation into Paypal and Square options for potential use at Carnival or other PTO events. Further research will be ongoing. Current findings:

- Square has a 2.9% transaction fee + \$.30 of the total transaction amount. Square provides 1 reader with additional readers available for \$10 each. Transactions are for preset amounts and custom amounts cannot be entered.
- Paypal has a 2.2% transaction fee + \$0.30 and it is possible to leave a comment with the transaction to help understand what the money was given for.
- Solicit feedback for the PTO committee sign-up process presented at Registration. This year the PTO committee sign-up sheet was included in the registration packet and the committee descriptions were on a following page. After Registration this August, 130 of the 197 sign up forms were turned in blank. Attendees provided the following thoughts and suggestions:
 - Remove the school year from the sign-up form so the forms can be reused in later years.
 - Have a PTO representative available during Registration or at least list contact information so that interested families can follow-up if there are questions.
 - Provide more information about the committees, typical time commitments, what the busy times are throughout the school year.
 - Add the committee descriptions to the back side of the sign-up sheet.
 - Provide more information on how potential volunteers could connect with committee chairs.
 - Follow-up email soon after Registration, “thank you for volunteering” that can provide some of the “connection” information and validate to the families that the form was received and processed.
 - Ask for committee chairs to reach out to pertinent volunteers at the beginning of the school year even if the committee doesn’t become active until later in the school year.

New Business

- One School One Book (OSOB) for 2019-2020.

The Morton elementary schools are reviewing books to use for the Fall 2019 One School One Book reading event to promote literacy. The intent is for each family to be provided with the same book to read together each night following a schedule set by the program, with supporting activities held in the classrooms. The Morton Public Library will be integrated in order for homeschool families to participate as well. It is hoped that the book would be selected soon and the program scheduled to run sometime after the Morton Pumpkin Festival and conclude prior to Thanksgiving.

Some feedback was gathered by the Grundy PTO after last year’s OSOB:

- 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.

For 2018-2019, the book purchase cost by the PTO was \$1,704 and it was expected that participation for 2019-2020 would be close to that amount. Last year, copies were purchased for each family (not student) and some additional copies for staff. Some suggestions to help manage the cost included allowing families to “opt-out” of the program altogether in advance, so that copies weren’t purchased for those families. Additionally, if a family already possessed the selected book, a copy would not be purchased for them.

Mrs. Fisher is asking for the Grundy PTO to consider adding OSOB as an ongoing line item in the PTO’s annual budget to earmark funds to purchase the selected book each year. Lettie Brown utilizes Kroger income to subsidize their OSOB program and are applying for a grant to add additional subsidies to the program.

- Suggestion for establishing a Food Sharing Table in the lunch room. The idea is for a space to be provided for students to drop off unwanted and uneaten food for other students to freely take. From a past inquiry, the contracted food service provider further stipulated that the donated food would need to be packaged and unheated, such as an unopened bag of carrots. Suggestion that creation and/or operation of a Sharing Table could involve students and student volunteer groups such as Scouts.

Teacher Input

Jill Veskauf, present. The teachers want to thank the PTO for their continued work and support.

Principal’s Report

- Teacher updates:
 - Ms. Craig (a former Grundy Gator) has joined the staff as a 1st Grade teacher
 - Mr. Stone has moved to teaching 4th Grade
 - Mrs. Matlock has moved from Kindergarten to 5th Grade
 - Mrs. Weyland has moved from 5th Grade to teaching Kindergarten
 - Also a number of new Support Staff this year.
- Facility updates:
 - Roof replacement – ought to wrap up within the next 2 weeks - delivery of materials were delayed over the summer causing delays
 - The fiberglass insulation in the roof was replaced with spray foam insulation which has made a big improvement in the humidity levels in the school.
 - 2 new drinking fountains with bottle fillers have been installed
 - New faucets and sinks in some of the bathrooms

- New convection oven in the kitchen
- Installation of 5th & 6th Grade lockers with involvement from PTO
- New PTO-purchased slide has been installed on the playground

Aug 28	Grundy Moms in Prayer from 8:30-9:30
Aug 29	Band and orchestra demo from 8:30-9:30 (6 th grade); Band and orchestra parent meeting from 5:30-6:30 at BF
Aug 30	Choir demo from 8:35-9:00 (5 th and 6 th grade)
Sept 2	Labor Day-no school
Sept 3	Grundy Gear order forms go home; Board at 6:30
Sept 4	Dismissal at 11:55; Challenge invitations due back; Band/Orch/Choir registration from 2:30-5:30
Sept 5	Girl Scout presentations at lunch (K-4 th)
Sept 11	Patriot Day Ceremony at 2:00; Pumpkin Festival begins!!!
Sept 12	Staff breakfast at 7:45 sponsored by 6 th grade parents
Sept 13	1 st Quarter Midterm; ECE field trip to Pumpkin Festival from 8:45-10:45; Grundy Gear order forms due back; Fun Run packet pick-up
Sept 14	Fun Run at 7:15; Pumpkin Festival Parade at 10:30
Sept 17	Challenge begins
Sept 19	1 st /2 nd grade field trip to Radar Farms from 9:45-2:00; Running Club awards from 2:45-3:45
Sept 20	MAP testing ends
Sept 23	Autumn begins; PTO at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Beckler.