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PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

PTO Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 18, 2020
6:00 pm Washington School Library

Board Members in Attendance:

Michael Paskin
Anna Stump
Matt Genovese
Tara King
Elizabeth Wagner
Jamie Crystal
Kim Eubank
Shannon Schroeder
Cari Menchaca
Kim Kotnik

Staff Members in Attendance:

Cathy Neushel
Christine Giguere
Denise Granger

Parents in Attendance:

Maggie Saunders
Alexis Courson
Holly Parker
Timothy Lee

1. Christina Giguere, Principal – Thank you to CIMI Chaperone and Valentine’s Day parties and all the volunteer parents. Asked who is doing next year CIMI and Movie Days fund raising – ask Anne-Marie Matthews. No Salida Del Sol crossing guard, she had to resign due to a family emergency. They are working on finding someone new. If you have an English learner LPAC testing is coming up (individual and group) now through April. Juvenal our night custodian is retiring 2/28 if we want to give a shout out or card/thank you. He has been with the district for 20 years or so. Night of The Stars: this year we will be nominating Ms. Yarnell and Ms. Maria Arias (April 15th). If you want to be involved with Just Communities and our partnership with McKinley parent training/education/community building, let Ms. G know so she can submit to Just Communities. It’s aimed at helping parents understand more about diversity and inclusion. People shared the controversial stuff out there about JC and maybe that’s why there has been hesitation on attending from Washington. Some campus issues over the long weekend (trash, stuff, people bending our gates, trying to get in, etc.) Please let Ms. G know. We have a closed campus and technically should not have people on campus on the weekends.
2. Denise Granger, Vice Principal – Attendance/Parents Square message: We have the most students at Washington, so we have to pay more attention to attendance. One of her goals is to try to improve our truancy record. We want to make sure that if a family needs help getting to school, we are stepping in to help them, teaching habits that school is important to attend every day. She works in partnership with the other AP’s and attendance is a big priority for them. Clearing up what is a truancy, excuse, etc. with our students/parents is important. A bunch of attendance letters went out to us all



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to help clean up any “other” excuses that fell through the cracks. Letters go out for un-excused absences at different levels. She recommends letting her know if you get a letter that is confusing, etc. She will be sending out info on independent study shortly. Asking all parents to talk to the office for anything attendance related. Do not rely on teachers to report anything, etc. If you have 3 or more days absence you need a doctor’s note. And over 10% is also a red flag that Ms. Granger will contact those families. We are trying to improve our district attendance (not just Washington) in general. Behavior issues - we have been doing exercises to re-teach behaviors the teachers have indicated are issues and it seems to be helping.

3. Anna Stump, Vice President – Wants to acknowledge Cari Menchaca on her leadership for CIMI and what a great job she did. All the kids and teachers loved the entire experience. Huge success!! Also thank you to Father-Daughter dance committee - amazing event so successful and everyone loved it. Party Book is discussing for next year it will be Sweetheart dance for anyone wanting to attend. MAT update: showed t-shirt including all the sponsor logos. We have volunteers for the day and Kona Ice. Still strategizing on the post celebration. Nixing Dippin Dots this year and looking for healthier suggestions. Deciding on when the celebration would be for the whole school (tentatively 4/3). MAT kickoff assembly meeting next Monday 2/24 and following Thursday 2/27 all pledge sheets and info goes out in Thursday folders. Two weeks for donations (one buffering week after spring break). Still looking for entertainment for the event. In a week we will send out Parent Square about getting volunteers. Kristie Chapman will reach out to room parents to help get volunteers. Color run still A GO. Any suggestions for energy builders most appreciated. Sarah Paskin on food, Jessica Barker on running check-in, etc. We will send out any other needs list. Thank you to Elizabeth on Business Boosters reach out for sponsors, etc. Discussed pain points of Gala and MAT being too close and options on how we should fundraise moving forward to help avoid stuff overlapping. Jamie Crystal suggestion – having a fundraising committee going out 1x beginning of year to all the same companies for the year of events/opportunities and creating a Washington 2020-21 sponsorship program for all events. Anna/Maggie/Alexis discuss challenges of this year’s event. They do not recommend the Gala being close to MAT.
4. Kim Eubank, Party Book committee – Thank you to Kim for all her hard work. Father-Daughter Dance made \$1,600 big success. Mother Son Bingo 3/14 9-11am. Could use another host for that event if we know anyone who is interested. Campout dates 4/3 – 4/5 is live and active. Mom’s Spring night out confirmed for 5/9. April 19th painting party with Painted Cabernet on campus. Still talking about wine raffle as a fund raiser. Run to fund is also coming up again as a potential relay team in May. Maybe we rotate Casino Night (bigger version) with Gala so not both in same year? End of Year part at Yacht Club is Friday 5/29. Tara King, Treasurer - Enrichment goes live next week. Current budget looks healthy. Explained why we moved the date of Gala up for cash flow challenges. Good news is we are in great position thanks to Casino Night. All our



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PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

expenses are on target. Regarding sponsorship money in-house, we need to confirm and actually make sure we payments. Jamie Crystal suggestion to do one excel spreadsheet workbook with all the events with a column checking off if money has come in.

5. Gala – Alexis Courson, Maggie Saunders. We have sold 59 tickets and need to sell around 100. We have great auction items. Good attendance is key for this event to be a success so more people can bid on the fabulous auction items. For this year, we increased the price of the ticket to recoup the money to make more fundraising. Still struggling to get sponsors in place due to the competition with MAT. We have \$1,750 currently and the goal for sponsorship sales is \$4,450. Will need to cut things from the event to try to hit the goal of making \$50 per ticket in profit. We need to hit 75 to break even and 100 to make a profit. We will communicate out to the whole group more details of the event like cocktails on the roof, three course dinner with dancing. We need to put a marketing/upsell out there for the event. Shannon thinks we should blast this week with Thursday folders (tomorrow) and other messages Ms. G. Kim brought up that some people who can't afford the event just want to donate – they will accept. Another suggestion is can we reach out to the Casino Night list of attendees. Asked of PTO that each member reaches out to their friends and get the message out. Instagram messaging, room mom route, Thursday folder, personal emails full blast. Matt Genovese suggested using Hit Me Up for reaching out to people to attend, it personalizes the messaging via text to invite friends to the event. Discount table sales to cover costs but get more people to attend the event and spend money on the auction. \$1,000 for an entire table suggestion.
6. Open Discussion – Elizabeth Wagner brought up the Superintendent search and how we can participate – forum is next week. Ms. Giguiere recommended looking online and attending board meetings or reading the minutes online. The goal is to pick someone by April. Ms. Giguiere will send out any info she has on this to the PTO.

Meeting Adjourned 7:44

Next Meeting: 3/10/2020, 6-8pm, Washington School Library