Pine Grove Elementary School PTA

**PTA Executive Board Meeting**

**Tuesday March 16, 2021**

Meeting Notes

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**Call to Order** – 6:31pm by President Anna Gibbons

**Attendees:**

Principal Diane Richmond, Asst Principal Melissa Markle, Anna Gibbons, Karin Wohlgemuth, Shaina Zobel, Jen Keiber, Tasha Logue, Tina Kubala, Colleen McCloskey, Vicki Pitman, Kim Yamas, Donna Beres Starkey, Anna Furry

**President’s report:**PTA is holding an engagement activity for March celebrating Maryland Day on March 25. Families are invited to post a picture of their PGE students at their favorite local MD spots, on the PGE PTA Facebook group page. Prizes will be given to randomly chosen participants who submit a photo.

Additional engagement activities will be planned for April or May. Possibly a ‘Nailed It’ baking challenge with a panda theme and prizes awarded. More information to come.

PTA is planning Teacher Appreciation events. Gift bags will be given to all PGE staff, delivered to school the week of March 22, to welcome back staff to hybrid learning as well as for teacher appreciation. Also, a lunch will be provided to all staff at the school for Teacher Appreciation week, the first week of May. Lunches will be individually packaged and ‘grab and go’ style so teachers can eat in their classrooms since gathering is not allowed. Mrs. Richmond also offered that tables could be set up outside for teachers to eat there. Lunch options and pricing are still being considered. Monetary donations will be requested from families to supplement the PTA budget for this event.

PGE PTA Scholarship fund is able to offer scholarships to graduating high school seniors who attended PGE from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Applications are available from local high school guidance counselors and are due April 15. Volunteers are needed for the selection committee to review applications and decide awardees.

Kona Ice contacted President to ask about hosting a fundraiser. The Kona Ice truck would travel to several pre-determined local neighborhood locations, and PTA would receive a portion of sales as a fundraiser. Dates and locations are TBD.

PTA is planning a spring spirit wear sale, at the request of several parents. PTA will decide which items to offer in the sale, based on input from families. Some ideas are tshirts in solid and tie dye styles and hoodie sweatshirts for both youth and adult sizes. The virtual learning design from fall could be offered again as well as the traditional panda logo design. Also considering offering water bottles with the panda logo.

 **Treasurer’s report:**
Estimated current balance is $7800. Estimated balance for end of year is $4000, a good position to end the year.

**Principal’s report:**
Thank you to PTA for the welcome back signs placed on the school grounds before the first group of students returned.

The return of Pre K – 2nd grade students to school for hybrid learning has been going well. Students have been having lunch in the cafeteria. When grades 3-5 return, some classes will need to eat in classrooms to maintain capacity limits.

Teachers from grades 3-5 will return to the school building the week of March 22. Monday March 22 and the afternoon of Friday March 26 will be an asynchronous day for students in grades 3-5 only while teachers set up their classrooms.

Return to school packet pick ups for grades 3-5 will happen Wednesday March 16, 9am – 4pm and Saturday March 20, 10am – 12pm. It is essential parents pick up these packets to receive their child’s transportation tag for backpacks, COVID screening form due the first day the students returns to school, an updated emergency contact list, school supply lists, and more.

All students returning for hybrid learning will be provided their own bin or container with basic school supplies. Students will keep these bins and supplies at school for their own use so nothing is shared between students.

Lockers will not be used. Students will keep all personal items such as jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. with them at their desks in classrooms.

Breakfast and lunch meals will be available to all students for free. All meals will be ‘grab and go’ style.

Approximately 200 students are currently in each of the in-person cohorts (A and B), and about 260 students in the virtual cohort (C).

In-person class sizes for grades Pre K – 2nd are typically very small, about 4-5 students each. Most busses are transporting 3-4 students each to PGE. When grades 3-5 return those class sizes and bus usage are expected to be slightly larger.

**Teacher’s update:**
Teachers have also requested another spirit wear sale in the spring.

**Meeting Adjourned** – 7:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Shaina Zobel
Recording Secretary