Pine Grove Elementary School PTA

**PTA Executive Board Meeting**

**Tuesday September 22, 2020**

Meeting Notes

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**Call to Order** – 6:35pm by President Anna Gibbons

**Attendees:**

Principal Diane Richmond, Asst Principal Melissa Markle, Anna Gibbons, Karin Wohlgemuth, Shaina Zobel, Jen Keiber, Tasha Logue, Colleen McCloskey, Nicole Claggett, Cheryl Madden, Danielle Walker, Jessica Appel, Kathy Antresian, Vicki Pitman, Sharon Bengston, Kim Yamas, Bonnie Aumann, Kaitlyn Flanigan, Cari Santiago, Tina Kubala, Sam Bianco, Naoko Bianco, Samir Sahu, Jennifer Collins, Laura Frederick, Amy McFarlane, Abby Bull, Sean Fayt, Alicia Wade, Mike Alpaugh, Kathy Andrzejewski

**President’s report:**Student Support Network – PGE is a partner school with Student Support Network (SSN), a non profit group that assists Baltimore County schools with food, school supplies, and basic items for students in need at PGE and within BCPS. SSN provides funding through donations for grocery gift cards, school supplies and more. SSN continues collecting donations, both monetary and items, for 3 distribution sites of food and household supplies. Monetary donations can be made online <https://www.studentsupportnetwork.org/donations/> . Donations of non perishable foods, paper goods, personal toiletries, diapers, and feminine hygiene products can be dropped off at Anna Gibbons’ house to be forwarded to SSN for distribution to all Baltimore County families on Fridays each week.

PTA plans to purchase a license for Zoom virtual meetings, to continue virtual presentation even when in-person meetings are able to resume. License is approximately $150 for a year and offers unlimited number of attendees and time.

Spirit Wear – PGE dad, David Zobel, has designed a new spirit wear design in the theme of virtual learning. PTA is using a new, Maryland based, printing vendor. Items will be sold online and shipped directly to families. Planning to offer short sleeve tshirts and hooded sweatshirts. Possible also long sleeve tshirts if there is enough interest. Vendor has a minimum limit of 13 per each item. If minimums are not met, PTA will need to purchase the remaining quantity. Interest in lounge pants/pj pants was also high, as well as a request for masks. PTA will inquire with the vendor on these items. Online sales expected to be available in October for 2-3 weeks – to be confirmed.

**Treasurer’s report:**   
Proposed budget for 2020-2021 totals $10,822. Carryover from previous year is $5822, expected income is $5000. Proposed budget needs to be voted on by general membership when a general meeting can be held.

**Fundraising:**  
Box Tops for Education continues digitally with BTFE mobile app. Families can scan grocery receipts with the mobile app for easy instant earnings. Sept 21-27 is National Box Tops Week. This week there are many bonuses available when you scan an eligible receipt in the app. Also this week, when you refer a friend to use the app using the referral feature, both will receive a $5 bonus for their school.

AmazonSmile fundraising is available from desktop internet browsers. It is now also available through the Amazon shopping mobile app, for both Apple and Android devices. Choose ‘Pine Grove Elementary PTA’ at set up <https://www.amazon.com/b?ie=UTF8&node=15576745011>

PTA plans to schedule restaurant night fundraisers for local restaurants who can offer a takeout or delivery option. Some ideas include Chick Fil A, Wayback Burgers, Das Bierhalle. Other ideas are welcome.

**Principal’s report:**  
New students are enrolling almost everyday. School staff are providing new students with devices, learning materials, etc.

Most of the technical issues experienced by many families during the first weeks of school have mostly been resolved. The school now receives very few calls with new tech issues.

Open Door child care will reopen at PGE and other BCPS schools for full day care including educational support. Open Door will be held in the school cafeteria. Children will bring their own devices and staff will assist with virtual learning. The projected start date is October 12. Contact the Open Door office at (410) 825 – 6300 for more info.

Discussion regarding the recent notice that some student groups will return to in-person learning – this includes students with special needs, ALL Pre-K, and ALL kindergarten students. However families of these groups will have the option to return in-person or stay virtual. A survey will be sent to these families requesting their choices during October 2-9.

Discussion regarding the asynchronous learning periods on Wednesdays – several families have reported challenges for their students with unstructured learning. Principal Richmond and several teachers recommended students in this situation could use the online learning resources such as First Math, Pebble, Brain Pop etc. The question was asked if Wednesdays could be scheduled in the same way as other school days, however Principal Richmond explained that would not be possible because teachers need that time to complete grading, lesson planning, and professional development. Children also need this time to take a break from screen time.

Question asked if there is a contingency plan for when technology difficulties prevent a student from accessing lessons and instruction time completely. In this event, parents can call the school for assistance accessing BCPS tech support and contact the teacher – some grades have paper packets available as a back up.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program – Ms. Kathy Andrzejewski, PGE 2nd grade teacher, is the coordinator of this college and career prep program. AVID is planning virtual college tours for all students in grades 2-5. AVID is also planning virtual career days.

Discussion regarding different lunch/recess periods for some grades, several families have been frustrated with this for their family scheduling and for BCPS lunch pick up. Principal Richmond and Asst Principal Markle explained while most grade levels have the same or very similar lunch periods, some grades had to work around the special area class schedules which resulted in different lunch periods.

**Teacher’s update:**  
Mrs. Kubala passed on messages of thanks on behalf of school staff and families to Student Support Network and the PGE lead volunteers for procuring donated school supplies for families who requested the assistance. Ms. Kubala has not received any new requests for school supplies since the initial requests at the end of summer.

**Meeting Adjourned** – 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shaina Zobel  
Recording Secretary