Pine Grove Elementary School PTA

**PTA Executive Board Meeting**

**Tuesday September 30, 2021**

Meeting Notes

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom**

**Call to Order** – 6:33pm by President Anna Gibbons

**Attendees:**

Principal Diane Richmond, Assistant Principal Melissa Markle, Anna Gibbons, Karin Wohlgemuth, Hillary Martell, Jennifer Keiber, Kim Yamas, Candice Matthews, Cari Santiago, Katie Adams, Melissa Markle, Amy McFarlane, Kristina Kubala, Darius Dove, Jon Herring, Jessica Appel, Meagan Denham, Kim McCray, Tasha Logue, Colleen McCloskey, Jennifer Nasser, Tim O’Neill. Quorum was met.

**President’s report:** Welcome to all the new families – we are excited to have you join us for the 1st PTA meeting of this school year. We will be following an agenda tonight and hope to be done between 7:30-8.

**Treasurer’s report:** Proposed budget for 2021-2022 was shown on the screen. We have a carryover of $5,315 from last year, we are hoping to raise $14,000, we have a proposed budget for expenses of $13,000, that will give us carryover next year of $5,000-$6,000. The budget categories were explained including activities for kids and teacher support, it was noted we can’t spend what we don’t have so we will only spend what we raise and no more – the more we raise the more we can do. Cari Santiago motioned to approve budget, Colleen McCloskey seconded – all voted in favor of approval, no dissent – budget was approved and passed!

**Spirit Wear:**  Tasha Logue updated us on the Back-to-School Spirit wear. Katie Kowal volunteered and designed some great new spirit wear for us this year – thank you Katie! – the deadline to order is Sunday night. There may be some supply issues, but the company is working hard to sort everything out and provide options for any items that may not be available.

**Fundraising:**  Karin Wohlgemuth updated on the status of the FUND Drive that is starting n October. It is similar to years past requesting monetary donations to support our school, students, teachers, and staff. This year there is an online option for requesting donations! Families can create a profile for your student and send out requests digitally or promote on social media. Due to COVID concerns it is simplified but there will be spirit Fridays and the Class Coin challenge, and we are anticipating celebrating with a FUN Run and Obstacle Course at the end. There are prizes for student fundraisers – raffle entries, spirit socks, gift cards, and prizes. Please go to local businesses and ask for donations – the paper fundraising packet will be coming home next week. Business sponsorship levels are anywhere from $25-$1,500+. If anyone has ideas about getting the word out, especially for new families, please contact Karin or Tasha or email the PGE PTA email address. Principal Richmond suggested we can use the marquee and TV studio announcements to get the word out.

**Principal’s report:**

* Reading program is looking great! Thank you, Jen Keiber for coordinating it!
* Thank you to the PTA for the Bus Driver back-to-school gift bags, there are several leftover, they are all in S1. The drivers were grateful and deserve a lot of gratitude. Thank you for recognizing them. Thank you to families for patience with the bus situation. We are a late school so busses do High school, Middle school, and another elementary school before they get to our runs. Principal Richmond has a mtg with the director of Transportation on Monday, they are in constant communication – they are working hard and getting better week by week.
* We do have clubs going – Mrs. Lurz will be starting Art club mid-year. Mrs. Cockey will be starting Newspaper club soon, Mrs. Trader & Mrs. Fenton will be starting a Coding club soon as well.
* Due to a worker shortage (nationwide) there are no substitute teachers – none, all coverage is internal. The faculty is doing great, it’s exhausting but Principal Richmond is really proud of everyone jumping in and helping out. Just like the rest of the country there is a shortage, and everyone is working really, really hard.
* Interims reports are being sent home this year, they are posted on Schoology, you can check them at your convenience.
* We are in the middle of testing right now. We didn’t do impact testing (formerly PARC or MCAP) last year, we are required to do it right away this fall. After that, we will have Math assessment, Kindergarten and Pre-K are in the middle of assessment testing.
* Help is wanted for cafeteria monitors – pay rate is $11.75/hr.
* School safety information – TikTok challenges are causing huge damage for our school and others nationwide. Bathrooms have had a lot of damage so bathroom breaks will be happening during class appointed breaks. Each month is a different negative challenge. Elementary school isn’t that bad since kids can’t have phones out to post the challenges but be aware, they are going on – talk to your kids and be sure they don’t get caught up in all this.
* COVID quarantine notices – they have changed a little, a notice goes out within 24hrs while contact tracing happens. If your child has contact you will always get a personal phone call. Fewer students should be quarantined with the streamlined process.
* Parent Focus accounts – set up your accounts to monitor your students.
* If you have questions feel free to call, Principal Richmond is happy to answer any questions.

Anna offered to post open positions on the FB page, we’re seeing worker shortages everywhere, thank you to the teachers for covering for this and taking care of our kiddos.

**Teacher’s update:**
Mrs. Kubala – the teachers want to know if there will be reimbursements available this year? Karin replied, if we can raise funds there is a potential for it, it is a line item in the budget. Anna added if we raise the money we may be able to do some amount. Ms. Kubala has sent an email encouraging all the teachers to join the PTA, if they don’t she’ll send more, she really wants them to support the PTA.

**Bookmark Program:** Dropped off today to teacher mailboxes – the bookmarks should be coming home with students in the next few days. The Reading incentive program is sponsored by the PTA. Each month each student will receive a bookmark that has a star to color in when they read for 15 minutes in a day. The program will run from October-April – shout out to the volunteers for helping to make the bookmarks and help to make this happen! If the student reads 20 days gets a prize, if they read every month they are invited to an end of year celebration. Encourage your kids to read and fill out the bookmark! Thanks to Jen for this!!

**Volunteering:** Shout out to Amanda McNeely for doing the Birthday Board! Volunteering opportunities are updated on Facebook, if there is something you’re interested in email the PTA email address. Volunteering at school is really limited right now due to COVID restrictions, we’re going to be focusing as much as we can with outside activities. Bear with us as the COVID situation changes – safety is our 1st priority, keeping the kids safe.

**Closing:** Join Facebook page and if you have suggestions drop us a line at the PTA email pinegrovepta@gmail.com.

Mrs. St.Clair (a former teacher) is holding a fall festival at her Farm, St Clair Farms in Monkton, MD, this weekend – it’s free admission – there will be activities and food trucks, you can find out more on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/stclairfarms/>

**Meeting Adjourned** – 7:28 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Karin Wohlgemuth
Recording Secretary