

Smith Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes
10/4/21 – 5pm
Large Conference Room, Smith Middle School

Attendance: Sherry Gillespie, Cheri Armstrong, Ray Shamoun, Julie Gould, Chris Mueller, Christin S., Elizabeth H., Joylena, Sam, Hany, Sandy Nasr, Ivana R., Muhammed S., Anna, Courtney S.,

Welcome: Meeting was called to order at 5pm by Sherry Gillespie.

Introductions: Each board member introduced themselves. Sherry reminded everyone that we will be seeking a new President, Vice President and Treasurer for next year.

General Business/Administrative:
PTO Meeting Minutes from 9/13/21 were approved.

New Business:

Principal's Update: Mr. Mueller provided several updates:

1. TFEE provided tons of books for our English teachers, which are very appreciated.
2. 6th graders are learning more about Destiny Discovery with Mrs. Chatel in Media.
3. 6th grade social studies classes are working on mapping.
4. 7th grade science classes are doing observation work outside, near the stream.
5. 8th grade science classes are studying genes/evolution.
6. Mrs. Rehbine is no longer in the classroom, but serving as a math specialist this year. She holds homework help at lunch and before school.
7. Staff is working on three committees this year:
 - A. Character Work – focused on 4 main traits
 - B. Diversity/Equity/Inclusion
 - C. MTSS – Multi-tiered systems of support
8. We are hiring a media aide to be in the media center when Mrs. Chatel is not there.
9. Athletics are on a roll – girls basketball and boys football – tons of fans at the last games, which is great.
10. Robotics and Science Olympiad teams have been meeting regularly.
11. First Super Smash Bros. meeting will be this Wednesday. Many kids are interested. Mr. Mueller will focus the group on building community and learning how to win and lose with grace.
12. Picture Retakes this Friday – 10/8/21
13. Staff will start recognizing good character in two ways:
 - A. Character Cards – given to students showing good character; weekly drawing of cards for prizes.
 - B. Knights of the Month – each staff member can nominate a student every month for showing good character. Student will receive a certificate and a certificate will be posted in the main hall. All students should have the opportunity to be recognized by the end of the year.

Read-a-thon Fundraiser: Sherry provided updates on how this is progressing:

1. There were some glitches with teachers not receiving their emails on how to register.

2. We need more kids/families to register, and we need more teachers to encourage students to participate.
3. A few teachers have really been supportive, one offering a Bingo party.
4. We have donations from 6 states and Mexico. Could encourage the social studies teachers to utilize this map.
5. Sherry made homework passes, and will give to teachers to distribute to kids who registered.
6. Sherry bought candy to be given out to students who qualify. Mr. Mueller will help distribute the candy.
7. Mr. Mueller will remind the staff to register at this week's staff meeting.
8. In past year's we've raised about \$3,000 plus many donations from families for gift cards/items. This year's goal is \$20,000.

Halloween Activity: Julie wondered if we could have a Halloween Dance outside in lieu of the Trunk or Treat after talking to several parents. There was support from parents at home. Dance on 10/27/21, will involve:

1. DJ music from Mrs. Brennan.
2. Food served – possibly pizza or donuts/cider – will be donated by Sign Up Genius.
3. Containment is a concern, so parents will be needed to help.
4. Tickets will be sold near the doors leading out to the football field.
5. Dance will be on the football field.
6. Some soccer and footballs will be available for kids to play with.
7. Dance will be after school from 3-4pm or 3-4:15pm.
8. We need a Dance Chair.

Volunteer Update: Sherry reported that we still need a Volunteer Coordinator as well as a Chair for the Dance Committee, the Holiday Giving Tree Committee and the 8th Grade Promotion. Sherry encouraged Ray to get someone to shadow him for Spirit Wear.

President's Council Update: Sherry attended her first President's Council meeting.

1. District hired a nurse to help with Covid management (Mrs. Miller).
2. Over 85% of high school students are vaccinated.
3. Mr. Mueller and Smith were recognized for camping chair idea.
4. PTO insurance was discussed. Smith does not have insurance. E. Hammond suggested this be discussed at the district level. Mr. Mueller said he will ask about it at the next Principal's Meeting.

Holiday Giving Tree: Sherry would like to start thinking about this.

1. We need a chair for this.
2. We use Sign Up Genius to collect gift card donations.
3. We used Venmo to collect monetary donations to be converted to gift cards for the teachers.
4. Sherry would like to ask the teachers for their top 4 choices for gift cards and then ask for donations.

Closing: Meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.