

Smith Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes
2/7/22 – 5pm
Large Conference Room, Smith Middle School

Attendance: Sherry Gillespie, Cheri Armstrong, Ray Shamoun, Julie Gould, Christian Mueller, Jennifer Hartenburg, Elizabeth Hammond, Christina Maizy, Michelle Phillips. Tracy Clowney-Harris, Jen Smith

Welcome: Meeting was called to order at 5pm.

General Business/Administrative:

New Business:

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: J. Hartenburg approved and C. Mueller seconded.

Principal's Update: Mr. Mueller provided updates:

1. District Facilities Review Committee is coming to Smith on 2/8/22. This is an opportunity for the committee to see the condition of Smith's building as they work toward a proposal for a possible bond.
2. The high schools and Bill Turner at TCCHS will be hosting our 8th graders for STEM activities at the high schools. 60 kids will go to THS and 25-30 will go to Athens this week. This will give kids exposure to OTEC and STEM fields.
3. Next Friday is the DC trip for 8th graders. They will return the following Tuesday. Ms. Casko and Mrs. Trice are sponsors. They are already planning for next year's trip.
4. On 2/23, the 6th graders will have a virtual author visit. The book is called New From Here by Kelly Yang.
5. Scheduling for next year is beginning. It will likely be a traditional scheduling model without a virtual school option. There will be scheduling visits for the 8th graders at the high school.
6. When the 8th graders go to visit the Troy Historical Society, we hope the 5th graders will come visit.
7. Not sure yet if 8th grade promotion will be in-person. It typically consists of 800 plus people. It could possibly be held at Athens HS.
8. The gym is now open during lunches.
9. We'll be celebrating being recognized as an "Emerging State School of Character" through character.org. We are very proud of this designation and will continue to work on this through Knights Plus days.

Staff Luncheon: Sherry updated everyone on how we have about \$500-\$700 left from the holiday donations and we would like to host a staff luncheon on 2/17. She will email J. Hartenburg the choices for lunch from Honey Baked Ham and Jennifer will email the teachers a google form to make their selections.

President's Council Mtg. Update: Sherry provided updates:

1. Dr. Machesky reported that staffing absences are down due to Covid and the numbers overall are looking better.

2. We can get PTO Insurance from PTO Today for \$300-\$500. Mr. Mueller thinks we should wait on getting this since most, if not all, of our events are school sponsored with PTO volunteers.

Committee Chairs: Still looking for committee chairs for Teacher Appreciation Week and 8th Grade Promotion. Julie volunteered to help with Teacher Appreciation Week.

Teacher Requests: About 9 teachers submitted requests for items. Looks like we will be able to fulfill them all with the exception of a gift card request and any cleaning supply requests. Teachers were given a deadline by which to submit their requests.

Fundraiser Follow Up: We need to make sure the kids who raised \$250 or more are recognized. Mr. Mueller will talk to those students to see what they'd like to do with regard to a possible pizza party. Mrs. Hartenburg suggested letting them bring a friend to the pizza party. We will host the 6th grade popsicle party in the spring.

Treasurer's Report: Ray reported that our current balance is \$18,386.36. We typically rollover \$8,000-\$9,000.

Future PTO Meetings: These will be held in-person and a virtual option will still be available.

Closing: Meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.