

**Challenger Elementary
PTO Meeting Agenda
Thursday, February 18, 2021
6pm**

Present: Ashley Luderer, Sara Pauls, Amy Prochazka, Jill Fuller, April Matthyse, Dan Pauls, Amanda Pena, Jamie Robins, R. Pal, Stacy Mazuca, Raquel Guzman-Amezola, Mrs. Hasings, Mr. Nicholas, and Mr. Cherry.

This meeting was held via Zoom due to Covid-19 concerns

- I. Call to order
- II. Welcome board members, parents, and teachers
- III. Approval of January meeting minutes
 - Approved by Sara Pauls, Seconded by Ashley Luderer
- IV. Principal and teachers' reports and comments/questions
 - Mr. Cherry's Report
 - An extended thank you once again for the rock wall; the kids are really enjoying it.
 - Caldecott Award will be announced tomorrow. Classes have been reading the nominated books for this year and in some cases voting for the book they think will win. All will be watching the video which will unveil the winner.
 - One School One Book begins tomorrow as well. Books will be sent home on 2/19/21 to start reading over the weekend.
 - March is reading month, and in lieu of putting energy into just one month; our approach is to a reading year.
 - Spring Break will begin on March 29th and note that the ½ day scheduled on April 23rd will be an asynchronous learning day (no in-person learning that day).
 - 66 days remain in the school year and can't believe how fast the year has gone; considering all that went into planning and execution of in-person learning.
 - Tentative start date will be similar to this year, though negotiations between the union and central office will need to set that date. More will be available once this process is complete.
 - Mr. Nicholas
 - The skunk tails are bewildering the students and they're very excited to find out what it's related to and hope it's soon.
 - Kids really enjoyed the Change Challenge and had an absolute blast strategizing and competing with fellow students.
 - Mrs. Hastings
 - Kids are pumped for the skunk decorations. There is excitement for BK/K to participate in something with the older students and have a common item to relate to in school.
 - The Snack Shack is a wonderful gesture for kids who forget snacks, or do not have them. It's nice to have options for them.
 - The Change Challenge posed a learning opportunity for BK/K. They didn't realize the pennies went against them, and once they figured that part out, they were very excited and overall did well in the competition.
 - A thank you for all that the PTO is doing; we love what is happening and appreciate all the events and surprises we've been the recipients of during the year so far.

V.

Treasurer's report

- Change Challenge was a huge success. After purchases we made to support the school, we made a \$2500 profit on this event.
- Popcorn continues to be a great little money-making event. We've already hit our budgetary goal for the year and still have three more dates for the year.
- Marco's Pizza Nights have been great this year, and still have one more event in March.
- Spirit Wear- New promotional gear and the online store is open until February 21st. Local pickup the school not their storefront location. That was a little confusing. We will communicate when orders are ready to pick up, and how we'll best distribute them to the students.
- We are working very close to our budget numbers this year; even with having a few more events and opportunities to give back to the school.
- We are under budget for the Teacher Appreciation fund, even having done more for them this year and it is very much deserved.
- Our total expenses for the year are \$11,123.21 projected for the year.
- We will use \$800 of the profits from the change challenge and provide each teacher with \$50 to purchase indoor recess activities, games, etc.
- \$300 of those profits will be donated to Weekend Survivor Kits which will in turn aid our students as we are the recipient of their good work.
- Motion to Approve the Budget: Mr. Cherry and Seconded by Sara Pauls.

VI.

Everyday fundraising

- AmazonSmile- We continue to utilize this program and will hopefully have an updated return of profits by next meeting. Last report we received \$30.04.
- Kroger- Newly enrolled program in the Community Rewards. Link your Plus Card to Challenger Elementary School PTO and passively earn money for us. We earned \$3.37 in six weeks of this program being implemented.
- VGs- No update, still collecting receipts toward \$150,000 Direct Your Dollar total needed to request the \$1000.00 payment.
- Box Tops- Turn in physical box tops to the bin in the lobby entrance and scan your receipts to the app.

VII.

Old business

- Change Challenge. Huge win for everyone involved. We could not have anticipated how well this event would go over. Thanks again to all who participated and helped us exceed our goal.
 - Champs Snack Shack-Newly developed program to come out of the generosity from the change challenge. Teachers received a basket full of snacks to keep in their classroom. When needed, they may replenish from the teacher's lounge closet where we have stored additional items. Pathway to Potential is offsetting some of our need to replenish by putting items in there for access as well.
 - Dunkin' Donuts donated all the donuts that the students received as our token of thanks for their participation in the fundraiser.
 - Indoor recess activities- Teachers will be contacted about opportunities to purchase games; puzzles, or activities for their classrooms to use when inclement weather cancels recess.
 - Ice cream social/key chains-3rd grade was the overall winner for the change challenge and were treated to an ice cream social in the cafeteria. They also received a keychain that the PTO had on hand.

- Weekend survival kits- Donation to this charity will occur, more information once this is completed.

VIII.

New business/upcoming events

- Restaurant Fundraisers (Street Taco 02/24, Marco's 03/09 and 03/10).
 - Stop by Street Taco anytime on 2/24 for food and we receive 15% of the earnings.
 - BK-2nd Grade will have their Marco's night on 3/9 and 3-5 on 3/10. Remember to note the teacher when ordering.
- Popcorn Fridays (02/19, 03/19, 04/16, 05/14) We will continue to host these events for the rest of the school year.
- Spirit wear sales/Spirit Fridays-Once students receive their new spirit wear, we'd like to reinstate the Spirit Fridays where all staff and students wear their Challenger gear.
- Social Media- We have a new Instagram account, ChallengerPTO if you haven't started to follow us, please check it out. Also, we have our Facebook page, Challenger Elementary PTO Group to follow. We will post events, information about meetings, and overall happenings in the school from our organization.
- Fifth grade celebration- committee volunteers? -We are looking for parent volunteers to assist with this event. Not necessarily 5th grade parents, any parents who want to help. If you are interested, please contact us via email chpto11@gmail.com or send a message through Facebook or Instagram.
- Showcase bookcases- The display cases in the main hallway were turned into a "book vending machine". PTO overhauled the cases, putting up wallpaper, adding new shelves and placing books in them once complete. Students will take their Champion Tickets and with Mr. Cherry or Mrs. Wilson select a book. Students who are celebrating a birthday will also have a chance to pick out a book.

IV.

Comments

- April Matthyse notes her two Kindergarten students are having a great experience with all the events and appreciates all the opportunities for books from the Book Ninja, Mr. Cherry's Valentine books to students and the upcoming One School One Book.
- Jill Fuller noted how much her daughter is enjoying the block schedule for specials, and hopes even after COVID-19 is over, this is something that can continue.

V.

Adjourned at 6:43pm

Next meeting Thursday, March 18 at 6pm