

Challenger Elementary
PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
6pm

Present: Ashley Luderer, Melissa Riordan, Jill Fuller, Jaimie Thomas, Rachelle Hahn, Jodi Bywater, Aubrey Laurain, Ashley Bennett, Crystal Zurek, April Matthysse, Mrs. Wlodarczak, Mrs. Gurka, and Mr. Cherry.

- I. Call to order at 6:02
- II. Welcome board members, parents, and teachers
- III. Approval of May meeting minutes
 - Motion to approve by Jill Fuller and seconded by Mrs. Wlodarczak
- IV. Principal and teachers' reports and comments/questions
 - We are already halfway through the first quarter.
 - Our building is fully staffed, some new additions to staff and the building is at capacity.
 - Drop off and pick-up of students is going well.
 - Next week will kick off spirit week. Our days were changed from the high school but should be a fun time for students and staff.
 - We've successfully conducted fire drills and those have gone well, our first lockdown drill is scheduled in November.
 - 5th grade students went to the Howell Nature Center for some teambuilding.
 - NWEA is ongoing, lower elementary students are working on DIBELS testing.
 - Reminder of the fall break; no school October 14th and 17th and marks the end of the first quarter. Also, November 1 is a late start day.
 - School Houses: Students and staff have been assigned one of four houses for the school year. The idea is to building community across the student body. Once assigned to a house, you'll remain for school career. First assembly to be held 9/29 and the kids are really enjoying this.
 - Request from Mrs. Wlodarczak to have a student assembly bringing in author Denise Brennan-Nelson to read and display her work of how to become an author to small groups of students. Looking to schedule in January or February.

V.

Treasurer's Report

- Budget is separated into 3 areas: events that will result in income and have expenses, events that are fundraisers, and events that incur expenses.
- Events that have income & expenses are Spirit Wear, Popcorn, Color Run, and Holiday Shop.
 - Spirit Wear: Current break even based on purchases made last year and total sales is \$222.
 - We sold \$484 at open house.
 - Remaining inventory at full price would result in \$1308.
 - Popcorn: increased income and expenses from 21/22 school year.
 - Machine cleaned and serviced for \$325.
 - Color Run: Goal income is \$15,000. We will have more expenses this year due to purchase of color powder (\$936.09) and shirts for students.
- Events that are fundraisers:
 - Little Caesar's Pizza kits.
 - Foodraisers every other month.
 - Increased income for Amazon and Kroger and decreased Box Tops.
 - Kona Ice, (\$100) thanks to Crystal Wood events this summer.
- Events that incur expenses:
 - Welcome back gift for teachers was a new lounge refrigerator
 - Teacher Reimbursement Fund
 - Classroom Snacks (\$279.12) which should cover first half of the schoolyear
 - Student Assemblies

VI.

Review/Revision of By-Laws

- The by-laws are to be updated every two years, and we took the opportunity to remove repetitive language as well as amend the start time of the meetings to 6:30pm. This will hopefully allow for additional people the ability to come to the meetings.
- Motion to approve changes by Ashley Bennett and seconded by Jill Fuller.

VII.

Everyday Fundraising

- Amazon Smile- easy program to enroll while you're making Amazon purchases. On average we earn between \$350-400 per quarter. To add our organization to your account, search for Challenger Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization Incorporated.
- Kroger- link your Kroger Plus card to Challenger Elementary School PTO. Quarterly we've averaged \$160 in earnings.
- VG's- We currently have 120,989 in receipts. If we collect 150,000 in receipts that say Direct your Dollars on them, we turn them in for a \$1000 check. Receipts can be sent in with your student or dropped off in the lobby in the plastic drawer labeled VG's Receipts.

- Box Tops-This program has been drastically reduced over the years with the scan only option to receive credits. If you'd like to contribute to this program, download the app and save for Challenger Elementary School.

VII. New business/upcoming events

- Classroom Snacks-for each grade level classroom 1-5, teachers will receive snacks on a quarterly basis for students who need a snack. This replaces our Snack Shack
- Popcorn Fridays- We will serve each student popcorn on the specified day each month. Dates are 9/23, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16, 1/20, 2/24, 3/17, 4/21 and 5/29.
- Rollerama Nights-We're bringing these events back this year, as a way for students to connect and have fun outside of the school. The dates are 9/29, 11/17, 1/26, 3/16 and 5/18.
- Color Run-This is our big fundraising event for the year. This is happening on Friday October 7th in the bus loop. All students will walk/run during their designated Specials' time. All students will receive a free shirt the day of the event. We will have a DJ to play music during the event. Our goal is to raise \$15,000. If you'd like to volunteer, we still have openings to fill.
- Trunk or Treat-This is happening on Friday October 21st. We will ask for volunteers to decorate trunks, donate candy, and run candy to the cars. Event will go from 6-8pm.
- Request to add a budget line item in memorial of Brock Meader who passed away this summer. The fund would help students who need financial assistance paying for 5th grade students to add the Howell Nature Center.

IV. Board Elections

- Kristy Bobblitt stepped down, nominations for new co-treasurer.
- Jaimie Thomas expressed interest in this position. Ashley Luderer nominated Jaimie and was seconded by Melissa Riordan.

X. Teacher Fulfillment Fund

- We have this fund set aside to supplement student/teacher needs in their classroom. Multiple requests have been fulfilled through this fund over the past couple of years including magnetic tiles for the kindergarten classes, busy boxes for 3rd graders, and lighthouse project supplies for 4th graders.
- Request from Mrs. Hillaker to replace some of her instruments. We will review the request and determine whether we will fund it.

IX. Adjourn at 6:52