

## PTO Meeting Notes for Tuesday 5/18/21

Attending: Tara D., Katie W., Evon V., Martha, Chelsea W., Mary K., John A.

### MK Update:

- -6th grade will have an in-person gathering of some sort that would be outside, and potentially involve kick-ball.
- -shifts in positions/changes in staff: some new hires, ex. Allison Paquette will be 1st grade teacher, Brian Bittner academic support; also Karen retiring.
- -an exciting new position made possible with recovery funds: instructional coach; position will facilitate tier 1, build capacity, will be an expert in pedagogy/the "art of teaching" - will foster the idea of structured teams, to plan, collaborate, emphasize co-teaching, help with peer observation, and build the "scaffolding" by which tiers can interact.
- -5th and 6th graders working on planting lots of trees and plants!
- -School board: recent meeting was brief, nothing to update.
- -Leadership council: need names by tomorrow morning 5/19 for next grouping; council really is the place to voice how you want funds spent, suggest items to be added to the budget, etc.
- elementary & secondary school emergency relief fund in 3 installments.
  1. First was used for replacing some technology
  2. Second not yet delivered, but includes the new instructional coach position, mental health (mostly increased clinician hours, for ex. Traci who was more doing family engagement this year?), but also some will be allocated toward afterschool programs.
  3. Not yet planned for
    - MK still learning the process for getting and using these funds

### Discussion about AfterSchool programs

- what funding for afterschool programs could mean - suggestion for a project manager for afterschool to help make connections and facilitate programs, for example working with and between teachers, parents, outside parties to put on a program; an obstacle to parent involvement is lack of time to manage and coordinate - it's not lack of subject-matter experts or parents being able to run the day-of stuff, it's the behind the scenes planning and logistics - and a dedicated person in that role might help. Also working across other schools could help - to share resources (kids might take an AS program at another school, but that already happens with jazz band for ex.).

### Quick updates:

- girls on the run still running'
- there's a new mushroom garden coming
- the book fair is happening next week/weekend

### Book Fair

- Book Fair week is next week - everyone will get a book (\$15 voucher!), and there are videos for the classrooms related to this
- Actual Book Fair will be at Everyone's Books on Sat. and Sun., 5/29 and 5/30 ... 20% of sales when people buy from Everyone's books these two days and say "I'm buying this for the Oak Grove Book Fair" will go to the PTO (and we decided could go toward the Story Walk - an installment in the Living Schoolyard - big book pages around the playground, possibly "Finding Wild" or "A Tree is Nice").
- For the Sat. and Sun., 5/29 and 5/30, we will also have a bake sale from 10am-1pm outside of Everyone's Books
  - **need volunteers for Set up, break down, advertising, baked goods, and making signs and flyers.**
  - John will get the canopy tent and a big blue table from OG on Friday and set it up Sat. morning and can be there from 10am-1pm Sat. (can also probably be there most of time Sunday, but also break down at end on Sunday).
  - Another table out front (Summer's smaller fold-up?) could promote the book fair and suggest people walk through and buy a book for Oak Grove on their way to the bake sale.

#### PTO Parent Survey

- 41 participants (included parents and staff) listed various PTO events/programs/ways of involvement as either very important, important, not important, or unsure in terms of whether PTO should be involved for next year. Top 5:
  - a. Afterschool programs
  - b. winter sports
  - c. special assemblies
  - d. teach/staff appreciation week
  - e. Thanksgiving baskets.
- Also comments were given for additional things ... some mentions for more outdoor games, more shade, addressing climate were related to the outdoor space, and yet Living Schoolyard was ranked only 7th.
  - a. (John wonders if some parents don't understand what is meant by the term "Living Schoolyard" and if the survey just said "playground improvement" would it have got more "very important" ... but also the playground has transformed wonderfully, so maybe it was lower ranked because so much progress has already been made over the last year?).
  - b. John would selfishly like to see an upgrade to the basketball court - but I think that a lot of kids and community members would also like to see this happen as the hoops and the court are in bad shape, and an upgrade would address some of the parents/teachers' comments about giving the kids more to do outside - it's also a community building thing that gets kids and parents together, outside).
- Also interesting from the survey: asked how best to stay in touch with PTO, 1.a was email from PTO and 1.b was newsletter from Tricia (also an email from Tricia about PTO stuff is I think seen by most parents); 2 was Facebook PTO page, and 3 the Remind App. (text chains were distant 4th).

### Discussed Plans and Needs for the School

- From one year to the next the parents change over (and leadership change over in PTO) makes things a little disjointed in the Fall (we seem to scramble to get PTO going); so having to get parent feedback for budget season which is in Oct. is difficult because parents kind of lose touch (in that context) over the summer. If we had more of a living document and more continuous parent engagement from Spring at the end of school year to Fall at the start of the next it would help; but also, **Leadership Council is the place for this now?**

### End of year School event??:

- should we put something on for the whole school/ OG-community? If it were something at the school while in session it would still have to be with masks and logs for contact tracing. Otherwise, we could do a gathering at the school after the school session officially ends (so after 11:30am on Monday June 14th)
- There was a suggestion of a movie night, but it would have to be really late due to light - and this is a lot of work in general, plus we'd still have to have restrictions of some sort in place (does Jen S. want to run something?).
- A suggestion of Ft. Dummer during the afternoon/evening, bonfires, etc.
- **will get an email thread going on this**
  - (my personal feeling is that as much as people want to celebrate, there are still restrictions and logistical hurdles, and Monday is tough day to try to get people involved to help; I also think people are really burned out on this year and would rather celebrate at the school, with little/no restrictions, in a big picnic maybe in the Fall?).

Last PTO meeting of year, June 22nd (Tuesday), in-person, food, etc. (potentially in Marha's yard) - **will start another email thread about this.**