



Ferson Creek Elementary PTO Minutes

September 8, 2015

Call to Order & Introduction of Board

Meeting called to order by PTO President, Shannon Sullivan, at 9:32 am.

24 people were in attendance.

Introduction of PTO Executive Board: President - Shannon Sullivan, Vice President - Leah Jenski, Treasurer - Becky Perry, and Secretary - Shannon Puri

Budget for 2015/2016: Approved by Caroline Schwartz, Seconded by Liz Holcomb

Committee Chair Updates

WAC - Joy Larson

Please consider company matching if your employer offers a donation program. To date, we have raised \$3825, which is in line with last year's campaign. Approximately \$400 have come through PayPal. The campaign runs throughout September for prizes, but donations are always accepted. Sign will be displayed in windows at the front of the school as a reminder to families. The class that raises the most funds will celebrate with a pizza party.

Mums - Michelle Williamson

Last year, we sold approximately 225 mums and raised around \$720. We continue to use Shady Hill Gardens as our vendor and the mums come in 1.5 gal pots. This has always been a very popular sale. While the prices are the same as last year, our sales are much lower. A reminder was in an email blast with an order form. The last day to order is September 18 and the mums will be delivered outside the kindergarten rooms on September 24.

Spirit Wear - Kathy Mourafetis

The original orders sold out. New orders end on September 14 and are expected to arrive on September 28. Sweatshirts (\$25) dry-fit (\$15) have been very popular.

AVIC - Lisa Sommer

The Art Volunteers in the Classroom program runs for 1 hr in each class once per month for 8 months, while teachers engage in training and collaboration time with various school personnel. A volunteer sign-up message was included in an email blast. A training meeting is on September 10 at 10:00am in Ferson's Teachers' Lounge.



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Boo Bash Fall Festival (October 24, 5:00 - 8:00 pm)- Shannon Sullivan

We need family's to step-up and run just a portion of this event. Different areas of opportunity include the Infamous Costume Contest, oversee delivery of pizza, make cotton candy, run games, help with registration, work in the haunted hall and more! Also, it would be great to have some new games if a family feels inclined to build something new or has a game to donate. Bob Werderich and Darron Weasler to manage Haunted Hallway in the 5th Grade Hall. Please contact Shannon Sullivan at shannonlnj4@gmail.com if you would like to help with this amazing event!

New Business

Call for Service Learning Opportunities 10/06/2015

During the October 6 PTO Meeting, pitch a charity for Ferson to adopt during this academic year. So far, nominations include: Garden Works, Cal's Angels, and Lazarus House. Candidates selected to pitch to the students will then need to be available during the week of Oct 12 during a lunch period (to be arranged by Mr. Adkins). Students will vote for their choice during the week of Oct 12.

Committee Chair List – Shannon S. discussed open positions and possible interested volunteers.

PTO Meeting Times –Morning Vs. Afternoon

Due to interest expressed for afternoon meeting times, we will be moving some meetings to 1:15 pm.

PTO Communication – First email today will be from our new system, Constant Contact.

PTO Meeting Minutes are posted on the PTO website within the week.

Principal's Report (Chris Adkins)

- Picture Day is September 23.
- Review of new staff members and position changes.
- On October 27 at Ferson Creek, Dr. Schlomann will be talking about enrollment vs. options for schools, redistricting, and boundaries. It will be an evening meeting and in a town hall format. The Board of Education will vote on which action to take in November or December. Then, Dr. Schlomann will put the plan into place. None of the proposals include changing programming, cutting classes, or affecting extracurricular activities.



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- Common Core and PARCC testing are used to guide districts in curricular decisions, not to make decisions about students. As politicians change, as will their influence and policies. Changes have already been announced for this school year: there will be one testing session, not two, which will run from March-May.

Teachers' Report (Karen Johnsen)

It has been a good start to the New Year!

Curriculum Night signups for parents were a success.

New water fountains are very popular and have not been a distraction from class.

Teachers request to be included in the PTO email blasts.

Welcome Back day provided computers for families to sign up for the PTO directory. A paper sign up will also be sent out. The directory will be organized by class this year. The PTO communications can only go to those who are signed up.

To be more accessible for working parents, some PTO meetings will be scheduled in the evenings.

PTO Executive Board and Committees have mailbox bins in the hallway between the Teachers' Lounge and the work room.

Please tell Shannon Sullivan if you would like to be on the next agenda.

The New Family Breakfast has been changed to September 23 at 9:30 am. An evite announcement will be coming to the new families of Ferson Creek.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:44 am.

Upcoming Dates:

Sept 1-30 – Write-a-Check
Sept 14 – Spirit Wear Order DUE
Sept 18 - Mum Order DUE
Sept 23 – Picture Day

Sept 23 – New Family Breakfast in Teachers' Lounge
Sept 24 – Mum Pick Up
Sept 28 – Spirit Wear Delivered