

Discovery Elementary PTO

November 2015 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

Meeting Date: November 2, 2015

Meeting Type: General

Meeting Location: School Library

Attendees: (13) AJ Farzad, Carrie Geldard, Claudia Ramirez, Lorrie Fitterer, Michelle Ramirez, Joanna Lopez, Laila Lacy, Mandy Bedard, Rebecca Perez, Amanda Keeton, Katie Buphum, Tina Leight-Roades, Kim W.

Introductions

President's Report

- Thanks to parents, teachers, and everyone who helped make the Monster Mash a success.
- Suggested having all fundraising go through the PTO so as not to fatigue parents and cannibalize our resources.
- VP's of Fundraising and Treasurer's approval are all that is needed for PTO's approval of a fundraiser.
- Budget will continue to be uploaded to website for transparency.

Principal's Report

- Nutrition Workshop being held on Wednesday November 4th, Farmer's Market will be Friday November 6th, and Book Fair the week of November 16-20.
- No report cards are issued at the upcoming teacher conferences. Teachers will be setting goals and discussing assessments the students have taken.

Future Initiatives

- November 18th Dine Out @ Panda Express
- Week of November 16th Book Fair
- November 23-27 Thanksgiving Break
- December 9th Dine Out
- Jog-a-thon/Apex Fun run January 28, 2016

Roundtable

- Discussion about teacher fundraising being coordinated with PTO to avoid overkill.
- Last year teachers were given grants from the PTO based on their requests by grade level, which presents logistical and accounting issues.
- We agreed to find more ways to steer parents toward the website and encourage them to review the budget to see exactly where their money is going, as well as to communicate the costs of services like the All Call system, the Art teacher's salary, etc.
- Mandy Bedard suggested annual teacher stipends from the PTO.
- Katie Buphum suggested that requests for donations be more grade level and dollar amount specific.
- Amanda Keeton discussed how much the second grade teachers like and appreciate the Scholastic News subscription. Also, discussed the popularity of the College Bound shirts and how teachers have been using them to motivate the students.

- Laila Lacy offered the VP of Communications position to Tina Leight-Roades, who said that she cannot accept the position but can assist until with the duties until the end of the year.
- Katie Buphum agreed to be our Box Top Coordinator.
- Michelle Ramirez proposed that we hashtag our events so that they can be linked to SMUSD's social media promotions. Also discussed how SMUSD is considering PeachJar data system currently used by Escondido School District.
- The transition from school run Jog-a Thon to Apex was discussed, as well as the percentages that were negotiated and lessons learned moving forward.
- AJ Farzad suggested that all tech equipment purchased by the PTO be donated to the school directly so that those items are covered by the schools insurance in case of damage.
- Operation Playground raised over \$1000 for playground equipment, WOW!
- Michelle Ramirez reported that per the PAC meeting, SMUSD is considering ways to fund giving each student an iPad, a cost of approximately \$3,000,000 every three years. Also, that San Marcos is currently working on offering free internet services to all students.
- Spirit Wear- we agreed to sell off current inventory and will be ordering new items, possibly with a new logo.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 12/7 for the Executive Board