

PTO Meeting Minutes
September 12th, 2023 7:00 pm

Welcome

In Attendance: Sonya Ryder, Darin Ryder, Jennie Harrison, Todd Orner, Allison Symmes, Ted Wells, Caleb McClure, Nicole Roy, Maria Kretz, Rachael Gibbon, Megan Booz, Bianca, Dana, Kate Carter, Kathleen Sease, Sean Sease, Rachel Trout, and Suzanne Spokus.

Introduction

Approve minutes from May 2nd

Treasurer Report (Maria Kretz)

The balance as of last meeting was \$17,601.87. Deposits totaled \$1,847.40 which included the remainder of the Hersheypark tickets sold and a field trip refund. Withdrawals totaled \$12,092.40 which included May Fair, Teacher Appreciation Week, 5th Grade Memory Books, field trips and bussing, teacher stipends, Wax Museum, and the apparel sale payment to Strickland's. The balance for the end of the 2022-2023 school year was \$7,356.87.

The starting balance for the 2023-2024 school year is \$7,356.87. There were no deposits made yet. Withdrawals totaled \$1,245.46 which included the 2024 May Fair deposit and two field trip deposits.

Mr. Wells Report

Mr. Wells reported that JGE Enrollment is at 363 (a little less than the other elementary schools in the Gettysburg School District). We have three new Staff Members, and they were announced in the September newsletter. Mr. Wells relayed his excitement for the new school year and that he is looking forward to working with the PTO!

Mr. Wells requested volunteers for the garden. Mrs. Manetta is currently heading this project, but seeking help from parents. We have detailed notes on how to tend to the garden, including a timeline but the current state of the garden is: neglect. Mr. Wells asked if we could advertise about this for the school.

New Business (Allison Symmes)

Allison Symmes reported that a Parents Night Out with Empower Martial Arts is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4th, 5 – 9pm; we have a 50 child cap and the cost is 10 dollars per child. More information will be sent out in the following weeks. Allison suggested doing a parent social event (dinners, meet ups, etc) possibly the night of November 4th and asked for any volunteers to coordinate something.

Special Guests

Coach Sonya and Coach Darin from Empower Martial Arts – they gave an introduction about what they will be doing for the parent’s night out event. Informed us that all proceeds go to PTO. K – 5th grade; parents can pay the night of or use the QR code to pay ahead of time (\$10 per kid).

Todd Orner, President of GAEF – Todd reported on GAEF: it is the fundraiser arm for school district itself. A 501(c)(3) organization that serves only the school district. He informed us that GAEF can help with events and supporting schools through two grant offerings: Givebutter giving platform (crowdsourcing) and Small games of chance license (\$2000 prize pool).

Committees

Fall Fundraiser (Jennie Harrison)

Jennie Harrison reported that we sold over 500 Mums. Our cost to Taylor’s was \$6.25 each with a \$3.75 profit for each mum. We made an estimated profit of \$2,100.

The PTO is doing Joe Corbi’s starting in October. We can do October 6th – 20th, with delivery in November or October 23rd – Nov 10th with delivery in December. The group agreed on October 23 – November 10.

RIF (Jennie Harrison)

No updates, looking to schedule for November.

Jennie Harrison reported that last year the PTO received a 900 dollar donation from the Optimist Club and that currently, she has not heard for this year. Jennie reported that a book order will be made sometime soon. The theme for November hasn’t been set yet. (PTO had discussion over themes from last couple of years)

Restaurant Fund (Maria Kretz)

Maria Kretz reported that on September 26th, we are doing Dairy Queen at both locations. For October, the restaurant will be Hoss’s, either the 17th or the 19th, the date will be set this week. Maria invited the PTO to help spread the word and that she was seeking ideas for other restaurants or organizations.

Box Tops (Mrs. Sease & Mrs. Spokus)

Mrs. Sease reported on the Box Tops. The leader board is up on the bulletin board (on the way out of the school). Currently, we’ve raised \$25 total.

5th grade is 1st with 88

3rd grade is 2nd with 9

Mrs. Sease reported that a Seesaw update for parents would be forthcoming on how to scan so that we can start scanning box tops.

Spring Fundraiser (Jennie Harrison)

Jennie Harrison gave report reminding the PTO that last year for the spring fundraiser we did the beef jerky/hanging baskets, and that the hanging baskets did not do well. Jennie is recommending not to do baskets this year and instead do something different, such as a sub sale with R&K. Maria noted that we had also signed up with Believe Kids again this year for the fall, but since the Middle School just did the same catalog sale, we have tentatively moved it to the spring. This is not binding and we can cancel if we choose.

Holiday Craft (Allison Symmes)

No report – coming in December, usually a Friday.

Hospitality (Allison Symmes)

Allison Symmes gave report, starting with the Family movie night, and invited Mr. Wells to talk. Mr. Wells recounted that the outdoor one was pretty successful, and perhaps the PTO would consider doing it again, weather permitting, with a make-up date. PTO was informed that Mrs. Daniels got a movie license. The PTO moved to open discussion, comparing doing it outside like we did two years ago vs doing it in the gym with the Kona Ice Truck outside like we did last year. Outside: we would need a screen and projector since the PTO rented those with monies leftover from when May Fair was cancelled in 2020. Kids were able to play on the playground if they didn't want to watch the movie, but then it became very loud for those watching the movie. If we do it outside again, we discussed having the movie in a different area than the playground. Inside: We can use the new screen in the gym. We will not need a make-up date. However, if kids get rowdy and loud, there's no where for them to go. A decision was not made at this time.

Allison moved the PTO into a discussion about doing a Bingo Night versus a Skate night. The discussion hovered around both events being awesome, with no action on either at the moment.

Math Madness

Maria Kretz announced that we are seeking a volunteer base to work out all the details ahead of time to work out the kinks.

Science Fair

The PTO had an open floor Science Fair debrief from May: general consensus that it was awesome and well received. Tim Funk no longer has a student at James Gettys, but Jeremy Kuhar has offered to help.

Announcements

Mrs. Roy won the popsicle party with the most parents representing her classroom.

Gift Card Winner

Caleb McClure – since he won at the meeting in May, he graciously declined. A second drawing was done and the winner was Megan Booz.

Next Meeting: October 3rd, 2023