PTO Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2021, 6:00pm

Mize Elementary

**Attendees:** Gerri Balthazor, Alana Avery, Lindsay Billinger, Erica Cisneros, Lauren Cunningham, Dana Ford, Becky Henry, Kerri Lindsay, Amanda Philhour, Jilly Reynolds, Kim Rosel, Katie Studt, Julie Suttles, Monica Toepfer

**President’s Report- Jill Reynolds:** Welcome to new faces. Motion to appoint Dana Ford to treasurer position. Vote passed. It is time to start to plan and prepare for the Fun Run. Looking for someone to chair the Fun Run. Committee will form to plan for this event and assist Chair in the planning.

**Treasurer’s Report- Dana Ford:** Budget was presented, voted and approved. All attendees signed budget.

**Committee Updates:**

* Staff Appreciation: Monica asked for feedback from Alana and Gerri on dates for snack bar/lunches and food/drink preferences. Box lunches (Grandma’s Catering) will be provided for teachers during conferences in September. Monica is also organizing a grab and go snack bar for teachers during conferences. A tentative date of 10/15 (Teacher Professional Day) was set for Love Letters truck to come to the school. Jill will contact Love Letters.
* Spirit Wear: Lauren presented 2 designs for the spirit wear. Those two designs will be offered in multiple style and color options (short/long sleeve, dri-fit, sweatshirt) Lauren said there will be shipping delays and items that are out of stock due to production shortages. Flyer for orders will be created and sent home soon.
* Fundraising: Erica has organized a Papa Murphy’s fundraiser for 9/15. Erica is working on a Sombreros fundraiser for the month of November. A skate city night/fundraiser was discussed. Amanda will contact them to organize. A date of October 1st has been set for Skate Night. Amanda will create a flyer. Jill suggested a Saturday morning Chris’s Cakes fundraiser. Fun Run: Planning and preparation has begun. A date of 10/22 was discussed and penciled in. In need of a chair and volunteers. A flexible goal of 20,00.00 was set.
* Family Activities: Lindsay suggested a drive-in movie night however expense was too great. Brainstormed on other ideas: a dodgeball tournament (fundraiser), idea of an Adult night (silent auction, wine night) in the spring was discussed. Gerri will get more information and discuss with Frank Harwood. Planning for father/daughter and mother/son nights was talked about. We will plan an event for the mother/son night in November and father/daughter night in February.
* Sharing and Caring: Kerri is working on letters for Veteran’s Day. Kerri suggested we try to do something more intentional and meaningful this year with our letters. Ideas were: connecting to classroom writing activities (Gerri will talk about with teachers) and children choosing a family member that is a veteran and sharing about that person to their class and all write letter to chosen veteran.
* Birthday Board: Kim has taken the position of birthday board. We would like to include teachers/staff on our birthday board. Kim will create a sign-up genius for Liz to send out to parents to sponsor a teacher/staff member’s birthday on board.
* Gift Card Coordination: Hailee Schmidt has taken this position.
* Website Manager: Jessica Simecka has taken this position.
* Graphic Design: Amanda is creating our flyers and graphics on our correspondence
* Teacher Liaison: teacher grants were discussed. Alana will ask teachers for their grant requests. We will need grant requests/forms prior to next due date so Jill can organize presentation of grants. Alana said that with some staff changes we need to update teacher favorites/classroom needs. Feedback from teachers to Alana that they felt like PTO was making them feel appreciated. The Love Letters truck was enjoyed by staff and looking forward to it again.
* Principal’s Report**:** Gerri was asked what is her “dream item” for the year and she discussed her vision for outdoor gardens/fruit trees and fencing in the back area of the school. Gerri and Mimi Leuszler planned and researched this project over the summer and found many great benefits to children. Gerri has applied for a 10,000.00 grant through the De Soto school district foundation for the project. Vision is to have classroom gardens and fruit trees that children tend and care for. In turn they harvest and use their bounty in the school to bake/cook and serve. PTO will theme fundraising efforts to support this project.

**Next Steps:** Next PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday October, 4th at 6pm, Mize Elementary School.