



10.3.2024 MINUTES

Gene Witt Elementary PTO

Date: October 3, 2024 6:00 PM
Location: Gene Witt Media Center

In attendance: Laura Anastasia, Keary Bartlett, Lisa Blakemore, Jessica Brown, Kiley Cannon, Emma Cecil, Mary Kate Cerven, Thomas Cocks, Shannon Cooley, Connie Dixon, Ann Draper, Cindy Fosbenner, Brandi Frost, Rachel Gaines, Michael Gibson, Crystalle Holmes, Ashley Jackson, Kristen Klei, Joanna Metcalf, Hector Morales, Angelique Moser, Callie Pikcilingis, Carla Santoro, Nicole Smith, Rachel Smith, Amy Sullivan, Laura Thacker, Katie Wilson, Alison Wykes

Meeting called to order at: 6:53p

WELCOME (Carla Santoro)

PREVIOUS BUSINESS (Carla)

Family Bingo Night

- A fun evening with a great turn out!
- The most people we've had at this event in the last three years.

Fall Fundraiser – Otis Spunkmeyer

- This ran two weeks, ending yesterday 10/2. Thank you to all who participated.
- No final numbers yet, but very close to meeting goal. Still counting cash and checks.
- Fundraising items will be delivered in November – Date TBD. We are hoping for a Saturday this year.

Opt Out No Sale Un-Fundraiser

- Ended yesterday 10/2. Thank you to all who participated..

NEW BUSINESS (Carla)

Spirit Night

- Carrabba's Drive Thru Dinners are back!
- Spaghetti and meatballs. Order meal ahead, we'll have a QR code you can scan.
- Flyers going home this week and due back by 10/13
- October 17 – Pick up 4:30pm – 6pm in car loop. The meal does not come warm. You pick it up in the car loop and then warm it up at home. The meal costs \$45 and feeds a family of 4.

Monster Mash/Trunk or Treat

- October 25 – 6pm – 8pm
- A sign up for people to decorate your trunks will be posted on Facebook, hopefully tomorrow or Monday. Teachers and families are encouraged to do trunks
- Candy donation box will be placed in front lobby on Monday. Please consider donating a couple bags of candy. We will give it to each trunk. 5 or 6 cars will have teal buckets with non-candy items for kids with allergies or kids who don't like candy.
- This event is free so we really rely on candy donations. Non-candy items can be donated too.
- Candy goal is 20k pieces. Our bare minimum. (We had to purchase candy last year.)
- Asking for trunks and costumes not to be overly scary or gory.
- *Parent comment: Crystalle Holmes said her business would donate if we are short on candy.*

Book Fair/Food Truck Rally

- The bookfair will run 10/28 – 11/1, We will be sending out a signup sheet to help the kids shop and run the registers. During school, the fair is open 8-8:20 a.m. but kids have to have a

parent with them. All students get an opportunity to go with their class or during class. Parents can come in with their kids during their lunch time to shop.

- Extended book fair hours Tuesday 10/29 – 4:30pm – 6:30pm
- Both new and returning favorite food trucks will be there
- We will accept bag donations for book fair.
- *A parent question about children volunteers (age 7), Carla will check with Mrs. Inners.*

By-Laws

- We have updated our bylaws. The new bylaws were passed out at the meeting and are also posted on the website, along with the previous version.
- We changed a lot of grammar and wordings and reordered to make more sense.
- We added more to the duties of the board and the individual officer positions.
- Another change we're proposing is to move our election to the April meeting. We would start the election process in March. This will give the new board all of April and May to learn and ask questions.
- We also changed the two-meeting requirement in order to vote in PTO Board elections to one meeting. One meeting PRIOR to the election.
- Please send any suggestions or questions to **genewittpto@gmail.com** by October 19th.
- Updates will be made and revised by-laws will be voted on at the November 7 PTO meeting.
Parent Q: Can you send via email? Yes, we will send link via email.

APPROVED MINI GRANTS – September

- Classroom Storage – Speech Therapy.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Shannon Cooley)

Budget

Held voice vote to approve 2024-25 budget; unanimously approved, no dissent.

- Otis online so far is \$44,730; We keep roughly 40%. We were very busy with U-Crew pals.
- Optout is doing well, these are still coming in. If Opt-Out kids did not pick up their U-crew pals for opt out, they will be delivered to their teachers mailbox.
- Business sponsors – still looking for business sponsors. Amount raised so far is lower than projected.

Teacher Q about mini grants: What is the budget a teacher is allowed to ask for?

Shannon: Mini grants are what you need. We either present it in the meeting or we discuss it as a board If needed if urgent between meetings. It should benefit an entire class. Can reach out to Shannon with more questions.

New Mini Grants

- For Mrs. Nunez. Has 6 kids in her EPKI classroom but is willing to share these items. Asking for 21 of Todd Parr's books. Roughly \$600 – approved by PTO Board.
- Mrs. Dixon: We need to make sure the books are all on the approved list before they are ordered.
- *A parent said she might be able to donate some of these books through a business library that is closing.*

SAVE THE DATE (Carla)

October 11 – Q1 Celebration – Kona Ice on PTO for students/staff

October 14 – Record Day – No School

October 17 – Spirit Night - Carrabba's Drive Thru Dinner

October 21 – 25 – Red Ribbon Week (done by the school, not PTO)

October 22 – Fall Picture Retake Day

October 25 – Trunk or Treat/Monster Mash

October 28 – November 1 – Book Fair

October 29 – Extended Book Fair hours and Food Truck Rally (4:30 – 6:30pm)

November 6 – Early Release (1:50pm)

November 7 – SAC/PTO Meeting – 6PM

Parent Q: What time does Kona come?

Carla: They come at 1pm and start serving at 1:10. They have to wait a half hour after the last lunch is served, district rule. 15 minutes per grade, 2 trucks.

Parent Q: Where are the memory bricks from last year?

Carla: Under the big eagle on the fence by car line. Newest ones are at the top.

Parent Q: For volunteers, if people want to volunteer, how can we go about helping?

Carla: Anyone who chairs events puts out signup sheets for volunteers as needed. Please email PTO if you want to volunteer.

Parent Q: How can we reach more families with our messaging?

Suggestions from parents included having teachers send out QR codes.

Carla: Signups get emailed and put on Facebook. Our website wouldn't be private.

Connie Dixon cautioned against asking teachers to send out PTO event info, saying they have enough work and correspondence already. She suggested parents: highlight events on the PTO calendar that you're interested in and reach out to PTO far in advance of the event date to see how you can help.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.