



9.5.2024 MINUTES

Gene Witt Elementary PTO

Date: September 5, 2024, 6:00 PM
Location: Gene Witt Media Center

In attendance: Jennifer Alcantara, Laura Anastasia, Anna Anderson-Cook, Lisa Baber, Michael Barber, Karen Barrett, Keary Bartlett, Josiah Brooks, Ashley Brown, Jessica Brown, Krystle Bruck, Ryan Bruck, Kiley Cannon, Emma Cecil, Thomas Cocks, Christina Coellio, Shannon Cooley, Connie Dixon, Ann Draper, Michelle Figueroa, Elvira Galinova, Michael Gibson, Sarah Hammond, Amy Holland, Crystalle Holmes, Ashley Jackson, Kristen Klei, Jimmy Morrigan, Danielle Natowski, Angie Nowakowski, Francis Pena, Stacy Piazza, Callie Pikcilingis, Debbie Pope, Kimberly Roberson-Hoy, Carla Santoro, Piya Shah, Nicole Smith, Joanne Sollazzo, Hazel Tejano-Yap, Laura Thacker, Palak Trivedi, Alyson Wykes

Meeting called to order at 7:19 p.m.

Opening Comments (Carla Santoro)

- Encouraged parents to volunteer and get involved.
- Introduced PTO board: President: Carla Santoro, Vice President: Kiley Cannon, Treasurer: Shannon Cooley, Recording Secretary: Laura Anastasia
- Announced open board position – corresponding secretary
 - Jenna Monaghan had to step down. The open position will be posted on Facebook and announced to parents via PTO email. Interested candidates should send in a short bio or statement by 9/15 (10 days from today).
 - If only one applicant, they will get the position. If multiple candidates, the PTO will let parents know and hold a special election. This is our first time in this situation, so it is a new process.

UPCOMING BUSINESS (Carla)

Zeffy

- This is an e-commerce site for nonprofit organizations that the PTO will use this year. It allows electronic RSVPs and payments.
- We had requests last year to allow for electronic RSVPing.
- We already used it for spirit gear this year.
- For events, will continue to send flyers home but we are encouraging everyone to pay/RSVP using Zeffy.

Spirit Gear

- Brand-new this year, still accepting orders for youth sizes.
- Website for adult spirit gear ready soon
- Wear spirit gear or school colors on Friday and share your pics online.

A parent said her husband would help with the design of next year's school spirit shirts.

Fall Fundraiser

- Kick off for Otis Spunkmeyer will be September 13
- Fundraiser will go for two weeks (9/13 – 9/27)
- PTO on stage in café every morning from 8 – 8:20am with U-Crew prizes. (7:50 a.m. for patrols.)
- If you have kids that have online orders, make sure to send them in with their slips for their U-Crew prizes. (For opt-out kids, we'll send the prizes home, or they can bring up their form and get them there.)
- Fundraising items will be delivered in November. Going to see if we can do delivery for a Saturday morning this time instead of a weekday.

Opt-Out Un-Fundraiser

- Flyers going home next week
- Recommended to use the Zeffy QR code
- Same as in the past, but different tiers for opting out.
- 100 percent of Opt-Out donations go to the school.

- For families with multiple children, the opt-out rewards are split between them (e.g. one yearbook, not one yearbook per child)
- In terms of Otis prizes, limo ride is limited to just the Otis sales (not opt-out), so is the money machine, etc. But the reptile show would be open to everyone.

There was a parent concern about ending up with two yearbooks if they already pre-ordered one and then received one via Opt-Out. Another parent suggested maybe we can do a yearbook donation in that situation to students who can't afford one.

Family Bingo Night

- 9/20/24 – 6pm – 8pm
- Flyers going home Monday
- RSVP and Purchase tickets now through Zeffy. QR code posted on Facebook
- A sign-up will be posted for volunteers, it may also be through Zeffy.

Book Fair/Food Truck Rally (New Dates)

- New dates listed for the book/fair and food truck rally: 10/28 – 11/1
- Extended Hours 10/29 – 4:30pm – 6:30pm – with food truck rally.
- Volunteers needed to help shoppers. A sign-up will be posted in the next couple of weeks. Will ask volunteers to help in 1–2-hour increments.

Business Sponsors

- 11 Business Sponsors so far
- Fence banners will be hung this weekend in the car rider line.
- If interested in becoming a business sponsor, please reach out to Gene Witt PTO. Form is also on the PTO website.

By-Laws

- Current PTO By-Laws are being reviewed and updated
- Will share first draft at October meeting and get input at the meeting.
- Updates will be made, and new by-laws will be voted on and approved in November meeting
- Requirement of having to attend two PTO meetings minimum to vote in May election is still active

A parent asked whether there will be a general PTO Signup Genius for all the year's events.

Carla: No, we tried it last year, but did not have success having the sign-up go out so far in advance of most of the events. We may use Zeffy this year and will send out signups for each specific event. Picture day volunteers were organized by Ms. Blakemore, not the PTO.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Shannon Cooley)

Shannon shared the proposed PTO budget of income and expenses for the upcoming school year. She noted some changes:

- Boxtops used to be its own income category, we moved it into general fundraising because it makes very little now.
- Otis expected income increased to \$27,000, our goal is \$30,000. There is a special incentive if we reach that goal, involving Mrs. Dixon and the reptile show.
- Spirit nights/Food truck rallies weren't making as much, reduced expected income to \$500.
- Family Fun Nights – expected income dropped from \$3,000 to \$2,000 because food costs have gone up.
- In the Fundraising category, we added Mabel's Labels, Tidal Wave Car Wash, and possibly one more. We also have parking spot auctions there and will be bringing back from silent auctions in January (e.g. for a student to be principal for the day). Car wash certificates coming in next week.
- Increased expected income for Daughter Dance, Santa's Workshop, Business Sponsors.
- Decreased expected income for Spring fundraiser, Spirit Gear.
- In expenses, we increased our teacher reimbursements from \$300 per teacher to \$400. These are for things they need for their classrooms.
- Recess equipment – we give each grade money to spend on this.
- The PTO is continuing the Kona ice celebrations, buying Kona Ice once a quarter for students and staff.
- The PTO operating and PTO printing budget were split into two different line items.
- We added in a budget item for Green Parties. The PTO took over these parties last year, it's almost 100 kids per grades per month.

A parent asked what Green Parties are.

Mrs. Barrett said Green Parties are a reward for the Acaletics math program for students in grades 3-5. Students earn the change to attend based on their school each month.

A parent asked whether students in K-2 had something similar.

Mrs. Dixon said the Math committee met today. They are looking into possibly doing something like Acaletics for K-2.]

Jessie Brown: Asked for volunteers to help with Green Parties. One Friday afternoon a month, 1-2:30p.

APPROVED MINI GRANTS – July – Present (Shannon)

The board approved several mini grants so far this school year:

- Gene Witt Eagle Fence Display
- Banana Caution Wet Floor Signs
- Four Fans for PE covered area (Two fans broke, the remaining two were not correct for outdoor ceiling use)
- My Big World subscription – VPK Classes (connects to the curriculum)
- Secret Stories – 1st grade class (approved for all the other 1st grade classes last year)
- Classroom Storage – 1st grade class

There were no new mini grant requests at the meeting.

A parent asked whether PTO paid to renew iExcel because she was having trouble accessing it with her child.

Mrs. Dixon said that iExcel is a district-funded program, and that we were able to get it for K-5 for math and it will be available in a couple of days. Mr. Brugos also got its sister science program, Penda.

Carla: Last year, we did \$36-\$40K in mini grants to help the students, teachers, and the schools.

A parent expressed concern about whether the mother-son event could be different than bowling this year. Krystle Bruck and Emma Cecil expressed interest in helping that mom, Christina Coellio, brainstorm ideas.

SAVE THE DATE (Carla)

- September 13 – Otis Spunkmeyer Kickoff assembly
- September 27 – Last day for Otis Orders
- September 20 – Family Bingo Night
- October 3rd – SAC/PTO Meeting – 6PM

Meeting ended at 8:01 p.m.