

PTO Meeting Minutes September 2, 2021

Call to order 6:28 p.m.

2021-2022 PTO Board (Shannon Cooley)

Shannon Cooley – President (returning)

Carla Santoro – Vice President (returning)

Eve Paquet – Treasurer (returning)

Laura Anastasia – Recording Secretary (served previously, but not on last year's board)

Cara Misiewicz – Corresponding Secretary (new to board)

genewittpto@gmail.com / www.genewittpto.com / [Facebook](#)

Spirit Nights (Shannon Cooley)

- There will be a recurring Spirit Night on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers in the Creekwood Crossing plaza, 7376 52nd Pl E, Bradenton. The first one will be Tuesday, September 14.
- We are working on lining up additional restaurants/dates for spirit nights.

Calendar Updates (Shannon Cooley)

- Helping Hands is currently on hold due to district Covid requirements.
- Running Club is on hold, possibly cancelled, because of the holds on campus with Covid and also because of difficulty in finding volunteers who can commit to being there every Wednesday morning.
 - The Game On Club is taking place after school. It could be a good alternative for students.
 - If the district requirements related to Covid change, we may look at restarting running club if we are able to find volunteers who can commit to the dates. Anyone who is interested in volunteering can email at genewittpto@gmail.com and we will keep you in the loop.

Budget (Shannon Cooley)

- We normally review the budget for the year at this meeting, but we are taking some time to compare it to previous budgets as well as to the PTO budgets of other local schools, to make sure it is all in line. We will finish it this month and approve it at our October meeting.

Mini Grants (Shannon Cooley)

- Mini grant for Mrs. Wasson/Mrs. Sharp for planting supplies materials (soil/nutrients/seedlings).
 - Primarily for gifted/ESE students but can also be used by all students to learn about plants/science.
 - Approved by the Board for \$97.87 without tax.

Otis Fundraiser (Shannon Cooley)

- The fundraiser kicks off next Thursday (9/9) and runs until 9/23.
 - We can't do an in-person kickoff because of current district requirements, but there are intro videos to show students in the classrooms. Packets will come home Thursday (9/9) or Friday (9/10).

- Our goal is to raise \$20,000. This is our biggest fund-raiser and how we pay for mini grants, money set aside for each teacher, specials teacher, etc., and more.
- Students can put their coupons in a box in the cafeteria to be redeemed for the stackers prizes. (We will post a picture of what the box looks like on Facebook so parents can show students.) Every day or couple of days, a PTO member will collect the coupons in the box and fulfill the stackers, dropping them off to classrooms on different days throughout the fundraiser.
- One of the prizes this year will be a show by Gatorland. They will present some animals in front of the kids and do an educational lesson about them.

Opt Out (Shannon Cooley)

- Forms are coming home soon. If you prefer not to do any of the fundraisers, you have the option to Opt Out. Depending on the level you choose, your student will receive some of the Otis prizes.

Business Sponsors (Shannon Cooley)

- Letters and sponsorship forms will be sent out soon. If you would like information about becoming a business sponsor, please email us at genewittpto@gmail.com. Stephanie Blumenthal is chairing this committee this year.

Volunteers/Room Parents (Shannon Cooley)

- Anyone interested in volunteering for a specific event or wanting to learn more can email us at genewittpto@gmail.com or message us on Facebook.
- Parent question in Zoom chat: Can Helping Hands be done from home?
 - Shannon Cooley: Helping hands must be done in school, but you can ask your child's teacher if there are things you can do for her from home and then send back to school. It is up to teacher preference.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Monday, September 6	No School – Labor Day
Thursday, September 9	Otis Fundraiser Kick Off
Thursday, September 23	Otis Fundraiser Ends
Friday, September 24	School Picture Day
Thursday, October 7	End of Quarter 1
Thursday, October 7	SAC/PTO Meeting 6 pm
Friday, October 8	No School – Record Day
Thursday, November 4	SAC/PTO Meeting 6 pm
Friday, November 5	School Picture Retake/Makeup Day
Thursday, November 11	No School – Veteran's Day

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.