

PTO Meeting Minutes September 5, 2019

Board

President – Shannon Cooley Vice President – Carla Santoro Treasurer – Bjorn Hubbard
Corresponding Secretary – Laura Anastasia Recording Secretary – Rosann Scattoloni
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Present: Shannon Cooley, Marcie Hackman, Amanda Cannon, Karen Barrett, Catherine Burke, Rina S Becker, Catherine Anderson, Laura Thacker, Erin Goetting, Rebecca Newman, Jen DiPasquale, Alyscia McDermott, Sarah Nonnemaker, Amy Faundez, Debbie Freund, Bethany Rowland, Bjorn Hubbard, Sarah Hubbard, Lesley Aulds, Mike Lynch, Stephen V. Rodriguez, Laura Anastasia, David Marshall

Call to Order 7:35 p.m.

Shannon introduced the new board and reviewed the ways to contact the PTO via Facebook, our website, and by email.

Old Business (Shannon)

- 1st Day School Supply Kits: Rosann organized the kits by grade and then Shannon organized them by teacher. Lenny was a huge help in distributing the kits to the correct classrooms.
Back to School Events: PTO members did a Back to School night booth, Laura and Carla did the Kindergarten Playdate, we did the Boohoo/Yahoo breakfast for Pre-K and Kindergarten parents, and we sold spirit gear at the Back to School Night. We also provided casseroles and muffins for the welcome-back breakfast for the staff. They really liked the homemade food.
- Fort Hamer Bridge Run 5k/10k: There were only about 15 people from Witt because of the tight scheduling.
- Memory Bricks: We are holding off on laying these because of the renovation.

Budget (Bjorn)

- Last year we had a pretty big surplus. That money was carried over and we're going to talk about ways to use it this year to fill in the gaps in the renovation and take care of those things that are missing.
- This year, we budgeted for \$54,000 in and out. That's a lot lower than last year. We're sandbagging it on purpose. If we get more money in, we can use it for surprises—things that crop up that we would not regularly put into our budget.
- Santa's Workshop is in the negative right now because our volunteers have been buying up stock, but we won't sell those items and make the money back until December.

Mini Grant Requests (Shannon)

- UPDATE: Mr. Marshall/schoolwide: Put in a request for Promethean Boards last year. They were approved at the 5/2/19 meeting. It will now be 7 boards, roughly the same price. We are waiting on delivery/install. Bjorn will pay for the boards once they arrive. \$16,000
- APPROVED: Bjorn/PTO: There was no drinking water out at the new playground, so Bjorn built a water cart and trailer that holds four water coolers. \$176.03
- APPROVED: Amanda Houston/Kindergarten: Asking for a play kitchen, cleaning set, and doll items for her classroom centers. She has 16 students. Her students will be building math, literacy, science, and social skills through play. \$289.65
- APPROVED: Cheryl Bice/ 1st Grade: Asking for a rug for her classroom. She has 17 students. The rug will can fit 26 bumpers, plus guests. \$550, including shipping.
- APPROVED: Amanda Cannon/2nd grade: Asking for books for her classroom to use as part of the Mentor Sentences by Jivey grammar/phonics program. She has 17 students this year. Ms. Cannon explained that this program is a fun, interactive way to teach kids grammar throughout the week. Ms. Burke uses this same program and said she has seen a big difference in her students' grammar skills, confidence, and test scores. About \$208.
- APPROVED: Mr. Marshall/schoolwide: Asking for a sunshade for the new 1st-5th grade playground. It got cut from the renovation budget from the district. [There was some discussion among board members and parents about whether the PTO should pay for this or whether we should push it back to the school district to pay for. The PTO ultimately agreed that this was an item that students need now, so we would buy it. We are still seeking out a sponsor for this, however, in which case the PTO would be reimbursed from that contribution.) \$26,658, includes shipping and installation
- There may have been a mini grant from Ms. Stooksbury, but we did not have it at the meeting. The board will discuss it via email.

New Business

- Want to be on a committee? Call or email us or ask us after this morning. Options of where you can help are on our website.
- Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser: Marcie Hackman and Eve Paquet are co-chairing this. The fundraiser kicked off on Sept. 3. It ends Sept. 17. The theme is "Robots." (The PTO did not know in advance that the robots' eyes pop out!) Tomorrow, PTO volunteers are providing cookies to the car rider line and the walker parents after school. The prize party will be Thursday, November 7. Also, at some point, the PTO will feed the lunch aides in the cafeteria as a thank you for their patience.
- Box Tops: There is a new app that lets you scan your receipts to receive credit for Witt, rather than cutting out box tops. There is also a way to email your receipt if you use Instacart, Shipt, or a similar service. Just from July and August, we have raised \$471.30.
- Monster Mash: This is being chaired by Brooke Temple and a committee has been assembled to help her. It will be Friday October 25, in the school parking lot. The committee will gladly accept more volunteers.

- Business Sponsor Letters: Marcie is chairing this and she sent out the letters. We have heard back from several of the same sponsors from last year, including some whose kids are students at Witt. We are going to try to promote them on Facebook, our website, and at the end of our weekly emails. We also have the signs in the car rider line and Marcie is going to figure out why the marquee isn't working. They will be displayed on there too.
- Spirit Gear: This is chaired by Rosann, Jessica Patterson, and Sara Hubbard. We also have volunteer shirts available for purchase for \$10.
- School Beautification Day: We weren't sure we were going to have one because of the renovation, but Mr. Marshall does have some ideas of what we can do. This will likely be run by the FBI or a PTO chair. Erin Goetting volunteered to help with this again—she coordinated it last year.
- Homeroom Coordinator: Laura is chairing this. Shannon is going to put the forms in the teachers' mailboxes next week, along with the Getting to Know You forms. Teachers can fill out the Getting to Know You forms and give them directly to their classroom parents. Then they will put the half-sheet with their classroom parents' names and contact info in the PTO mailbox. Laura will contact the classroom parents from there.
- Opt-Out Letters: Meg Flammang is chairing this. She sent out the Opt-Out letters. We extended the deadline. Tomorrow is the last day to send in an Opt-Out check.
- Runners' Club: This will start on Wednesday, October 2, led by Jennifer Marks and Melissa Thomas. It will take place in the back, on the new playground. They will walk it to measure it ahead of time. Flyers will go home soon.
- Spirit Nights: Jessica Patterson is chairing this. Culvers was August 20, but we have not heard how much money it raised yet. The next one will be Thursday, October 10, at Chic Fil A, from 6 a.m. through 10 p.m.
- Spirit Days/Weeks: Shannon and Carla are co-chairing this. Every Friday will be Gene Witt Spirit Day. They will also work to set up Spirit Weeks (crazy socks, crazy hair, etc.) to coincide with Book Fair week(s). They will meet with Mr. Marshall before picking the Spirit Week themes.
- Amazon Rewards: You can link your Amazon account to Witt and then .05 percent is donated back to the school. You must use a web browser to access smile.amazon.com—you cannot use that app on a phone.
- Helping hands: Eve Paquet and Shannon are co-chairing this. It is going to be the second Wednesday of every month. The first will be Sept. 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria, down by the stage. Grandparents are welcome to help too. Please note: Everyone must complete the volunteer form before they come in to help with that. You can find it at Manateeschools.net -- go to Community, then Volunteers, and then click on "online volunteer application" at the top.

Races (Eve)

If anybody does the Boo Run, Turkey Trot, Jingle 5k, and/or one specific other local race, you can run 3 of 4 and get an extra medal. I have arranged for school discounts. \$11 for kids, \$20-25 for parents. If we get over 50 people from Witt, they will put Gene Witt on the back of the shirt.

The Tidewell organizers run their own, so I won't track those entries – they are online. The other three races require paper forms. Families will turn them in to the PTO and I will coordinate picking up/delivering race packets.

Upcoming Dates (Shannon)

- Monday, 9/9, is picture day. Do not wear green.
- Wednesday, 9/11, is Helping Hands at 8:30 a.m. and Early Release at 1:40 p.m.
- Wednesday, 10/2, is Runners' Club.
- Thursday, 10/3, is the next SAC/PTO meeting at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.