

Maple Grove PTA Board Meeting 8/25/15

Attendance:

Shannon Garvin - President(SG)
Emily Melancon - Vice President(EM)
Lindsey Fleener - Vice President(LF)
Cora Rice - Co Treasurer(CR)
Mindy Kopser - Co Treasurer(MK)
Jessica Tsuo - Secretary(JT)
Ian Stone - Maple Grove Principal(IS)

Board members discussed the back to school events so far this year and what was successful and what could be improved upon for next year. There was a consensus that having the flex assessment days early in the school year was a good idea as it helped to ease the kids back into school life.

The upcoming first general PTA meeting of the 2015/16 school year is on 9/10 at the Arbor House. PTA members will provide light refreshments. PTA will try to see if any other parents would be willing to donate either some food or drinks for the meeting. It was agreed that some representatives from the after-school programs should attend this meeting and PTA will contact them to invite them.

Upcoming events such as REACH week, movie night, parent-teacher conferences and teacher meals were also discussed. REACH week is being run by Lisa Denton this year and everything is looking good and ready to go.

PTA will not provide babysitters for the parent-teacher conferences but will help to coordinate the teacher meals on 9/21 and 9/23.

The Grizzly Growl is on 10/4 this year at 9am. A lot of discussion centered around whether to have an event after the run. There was talk about the possibility of a carnival but logistically this may be difficult give the tight time constraints. There was a consensus that it would be nice to have a family friendly social event after the race so that families could relax and mingle afterwards. It was agreed that LF would inquire about the Sweet Cow ice-cream truck to see if it would come to the school. Families will be encouraged to bring a blanket and a lunch for after the race as a social event to celebrate another successful Grizzly Growl.

Other events that are scheduled throughout the school year were briefly discussed such as the Science Fair, the Gala, Art Show, Field Day and Staff Appreciation week. There was talk about the need to continue to recruit volunteers for these events.

It was brought up that the courtyard of the school is quite a mess and will need to be attended to. It was mentioned that this could be a good activity for the older students of the school.

There was discussion on what the best way to honor Drake would be. Two possible ideas are to have an annual award that celebrates citizenship, character or perseverance as a tribute to Drake. Also, a bench with a personalized plaque was another idea. There needs to be input from Drake's family and his classmates. Everyone wants to honor Drake and make sure he is remembered forever, but we all need to be mindful of his family and friends who are still hurting tremendously.

In anticipation of the first general PTA meeting on 9/10, the board members and IS spent a large amount of time reviewing the proposed 2015/16 annual PTA budget.

The budget for the garden can now be reduced as it is almost fully operational. The one thing still necessary for the garden to be complete is a shed. There are plans for a shed that have been drawn up and will be presented at the general meeting. The estimated price for a shed will be approximately \$2000 which seemed reasonable to the PTA board members.

There was discussion of reducing the technology fund as there are a suitable number of iPads for the students for the time being. There was discussion of keeping \$5000 in a reserve fund to purchase new iPads in the future as the older ones become obsolete.

There was discussion of increasing funding for the GT program. There are a large number of students at Maple Grove who could qualify for GT and there seemed to be a consensus that most parents would support increasing funding for the GT program. The GT teacher has requested 4 laptops as part of her wish list. This could be a good use of funds for the GT program. In addition, the PTA will consider directing some funds to help pay the salary of the GT teacher.

There was discussion of having some assemblies for the kids this year. It was proposed that the PTA could direct \$1000 for assemblies for the enjoyment of the students.

There was discussion about doing more to support professional learning for teachers and perhaps turning this into a line item on the budget so that there will always be some funds directed towards supporting the teacher's professional learning.

Other possibilities for funding could be towards the library, as the librarian would like to start modernizing the library.

Spiritwear is nearly ready for online sales. There will be 3 opportunities to buy spirit wear this year. LF presented the illustrations of the new clothing line and all PTA members liked the new looks.

There were 2 new PARA's hired for this year. Mrs Clain was hired for reading intervention and playground supervision. Mrs Stickney was hired as a classroom PARA for K, 1st and 3rd grades.

Next meeting is the PTA general meeting on 9/0/15.