

Maple Grove PTA General Meeting Minutes 9/10/16

Attendance:

Shannon Garvin - President(SG)

Lindsey Fleener - Co-vice President(LF)

Emily Melancon - Co-vice President(EM)

Cora Rice - Co-vice Treasurer(CR)

Mindy Kopser - Co-vice Treasurer(MK)

Ian Stone - Principal(IS)

The first general PTA meeting of the year was held at the Arbor House at 6:30 pm. The meeting was well attended and the Arbor House was full. Introductions of the PTA members were made to the general public. PTA provided babysitters at the Arbor House so that parents could attend this meeting.

The meeting started by EM speaking about the garden. Today was the first day of the “garden to cafeteria program”. Students ate some produce that came from the school garden. The garden can be used for many teaching opportunities and ties into the curriculum. EM described how a lot has been accomplished in a short amount of time and that the garden is completely up and running and producing a lot. A greenhouse has been donated to the garden which will be beneficial to starting seedlings in the winter time. There are still volunteers needed for the garden. Mrs Stahura wants to develop a “gardening library” to complement the garden and it’s ties to the curriculum. IS also described reiterated how much has been accomplished in a short amount of time and for much less(due to donations) than a regular school garden usually costs. The garden has cost about \$7000 to date in contrast to the average cost of \$25,000. The garden is also completely functional now in only 6 months, compared to the 1-2 years it has taken other schools.

CR spoke about the STEM lab. The STEM lab is now modestly equipped and has several microscopes(thanks to fundraising through last year’s gala). The plan is to start encouraging teachers to start using and incorporating the STEM lab into their lesson plans.

The 3 major fundraisers for Maple Grove were discussed. EM spoke about the Grizzly Growl which will be on 10/04 this year. Sponsors have covered all of the costs so all the entrance fees go directly back to the school. There is still a great need for many volunteers to make this race safe and successful.

Lisa Denton is running the Grizzly Reading Challenge(formerly REACH Week) this year. Lisa explained the 3 options available to participate in the reading challenge: the kids may sign postcards to send out for people to sponsor them, there is also an email option for sponsorship or the parents may choose the buyout option. Lisa also briefly covered the Farmers 5000 5k and how if Maple Grove could get more participants than other elementary schools then Maple Grove would receive \$500.

LF spoke about the gala and how it is a huge fundraiser for the school. There is still a great need for volunteers.

LF spoke about the new online spirit wear store. There will be three 2 week windows for parents to purchase the grizzly spirit wear this year. The PTA does not make money on these sales. The purpose is to provide an opportunity to purchase grizzly spirit wear to increase school spirit.

MK spoke about the upcoming Kidpower classes on 11/11 and 11/18. This is a valuable and interactive safety class that both parents and students participate in.

Amy Stahura spoke about the library and her wish to make it more like a “learning commons” than a traditional library. This will encourage more active learning. The goal is to make the library a more flexible and collaborative learning space. There will be more whiteboards, lighter and more comfortable furniture, more color, more light and a window seat. Amy Stahura is requesting \$5000 for the anticipated costs for this project.

The proposed 2015/16 budget was discussed at length. IS explained with great detail many of the larger expenditures. The PTA normally has \$15,000 in a reserve to carry over each year. One large part of the budget is the technology fund. The amount proposed for this year is \$15,000. There will be a need to purchase more iPads, not only to update the ones that will soon be getting too old but also to expand the 1:1 iPad program. There is also a fantastic app called Dreambox Learning for math. There is \$5000 in a technology reserve fund.

There is \$5000 proposed for general academic support. This category is like a “wishlist” for teachers to request items for their classrooms. It is broken into \$2500 for each semester.

GT support has a proposed amount of \$6000. \$4000 would go towards contributing to the GT teacher’s salary and \$2000 would purchase a 3D printer.

\$4000 is proposed to contribute to the salary of the library PARA.

\$3500 is proposed for the school garden. A portion of this money will be used to build a shed(at a greatly reduced cost, due to donations).

\$1000 is proposed for professional learning, to support the teacher’s requests for professional learning.

After the major line items of the budget were explained, SG made a motion to add a \$5000 line item for the library project. This motion was seconded.

There was then a motion to vote for the approval to add the \$5000 library line item. This motion was seconded. A vote was held and was approved.

There was then a motion to vote on the amended 2015/16 budget. This motion was seconded.

There was then a vote to approve the proposed 2015/16 budget. The 2015/16 amended budget was approved and the meeting was adjourned.