

# Steuart W. Weller Elementary School

## PTO Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2018

Called to Order by : 8:00am

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

#### **Principal's Report - Julia Burton**

Innovation Lab: Students have started using the Innovation lab. Next step is to have the parents come in to see how the kids are using it. The kids are very excited! Teachers were recently introduced to the different tools so now they can plan how their students can best use the lab. We have a set of virtual reality goggles: one group is studying the planets and solar system, another group is studying Jamestown so they were using the Google virtual reality goggles, and another group is studying the earth's crust so they could see volcanoes up close. We also now have iPads to create movies for projects they're assigned to work on.

It's the end of the quarter so parent teacher conferences are happening; very valuable.

Thank you to Steve Crout for the outstanding "Say Hello" week -- we have seen an uptick in general kindness. Students loved participating in that week and it was very powerful. Possibly do it again in February?

Teacher Lunch and Bus Driver appreciation was great, thank you Caring & Sharing.

Great beginning of the school year, great partnership with our parents.

First wave of MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) for grades 2-5 took place of the SGA's. Next window of that assessment will be in the winter. Parents will see child's score in the fall, winter, and a projected growth for the spring.

Hero's Run (formerly Turkey Trot) is 11/10, Book Fair opens that morning.

#### **President's Report - Josh Martin**

Special guest, Eric Hornberger, district representative on Loudoun County School Board, will speak to SWES expansion plans.

We've accomplished a lot so far in just over 2 months: BTS picnic, No Frills Fundraiser, Lego movie, photo shoot, Spooky Bingo, Pie Fundraiser, Dec movie planned, Start with Hello Week, Lucky Lunch. Big congrats and thank you to everyone for all of this.

Big donation from Sweatworks -- \$10,000 -- for Innovation Lab. So we have now funded phases 1 & 2 of the lab for Mrs. Fahim to work with!

We've raised more than \$35k from a combination of sources. Goal is \$50k -- upcoming volleyball game etc we'll achieve.

Volunteers: lots of other areas to give your time ie. updating the website, writing blogs, volunteering for a single event.

Motion to take \$1,000 from Innovation Lab expense in the budget and create a new expense line item called Charitable Giving and fund it with the \$1,000. 1st Motion by Josh Martin, 2nd Shelly Scarpelli. Vote: In favor

### **Vice Presidents Report - Anthony Borradori**

Absent

### **Secretary's Report - Carrie Wright**

- October meeting minutes approved
  - 1st by Josh Martin
  - 2nd by Shelly Scarpelli

### **Treasurer's Report - Carrie Wright**

October's largest sources of income were from Spooky Bingo, SpiritWear, the Photography session, and a slew of corporate donations.

-Spooky Bingo: netted \$3,300, which exceeds our planned net income of \$2500, and is 12% greater than last year's Spooky Bingo event.

-Spiritwear: should ship out late next week. Once that happens we'll be invoiced. So right now Spiritwear cost is unknown, but we did sell \$2,359 worth of Spiritwear.

-Photography session: we paid \$250 to rent the barn, sold \$850 of photo sessions. \$600 profit on that endeavor.

Corporate donations and sponsorships we brought in close to \$2000 of cash donations and sponsorships in October:

-Allen Investment Mgmt was a \$500 Spooky Bingo sponsor

-FCV Soccer gave \$500 in sponsorship funding

-GMAC gave another \$400

-Ashburn Orthodontics is sponsoring our December movie night for \$350

-Ashburn Law Offices gave \$250 in sponsorship funding

Difference between cash donations and In-kind donations: the latter are donations of goods and services, not actual money. Heidi Hussion maintains a running total of all in-kind donations the PTO has received. We fully intend to provide greater transparency in our spending of corporate donations AND we plan to make recommendations for some budget changes to be voted on for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year. We will have this prepared for the January meeting.

Moving on, just a couple more sources of income for October --

Netted \$535 from our school Supplies fundraiser -- less than we've made in past years but this is largely attributed to a vendor change which was necessary due to a volume of errors that our prior vendor made.

Amazon Smile paid us \$64 which represents our percentage from purchases made between July 1st and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Expenditures in October were for Spooky Bingo and minor expenditures for Teacher's Lucky Lunch.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **ASAP Report - Rasha Saad**

Josh reported for Rasha: No other issues have come up with Flex since they've started. Trying to figure out next steps for next session, updating the catalog. Registration will run from mid-Dec to mid-Jan. Still trying to resolve issues around pricing model for vendors, and stick with the one-year contract with Flex. May change vendors next year or go back to quasi-volunteer run model.

#### **Watch Dog Dads - Nancy Fuller**

Update on Charitable Giving:

Heavily focused on assisting our families with the holidays -- Backpack Buddies. Big uptick in families requesting support and Thanksgiving assistance. Trying to pull help with liaisons from Belmont Ridge ES and getting help from PTO. Will send a link to our Wildcat Cares group to contribute a Thanksgiving meal for a family.

After Thanksgiving we support our families for Christmas. Virtual Giving Tree is supported. 20% of our kids qualify for free & reduced meals.

#### **SEAC - Jamie Levy**

Absent but no update per Josh.

#### **Caring & Sharing Committee - Kate Tabor**

Julie Cogger: We will hold a catered lunch in December by Olive Garden. Desserts will come from parents. This will be the 3rd meal so far.

#### **Sponsorships - Heidi**

Absent

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

School Boundaries & School Expansion -- Eric Hornberger - represents the Ashburn district on Loudoun County School Board.

Superintendent is recommending that we NOT do the expansion on SWES. Originally it was based on expansion projections from 3 years ago to do this at Dominion Trail & SWES. This year there no longer appears to be a need at either school so there will not be an expansion. Capital Improvement Program comes as a recommendation from the Superintendent and then they look to public for input. Nov/Dec produces a revised CIP. School projects do get priority. Student growth projections are captured in the CIP.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at:

1st - Josh Martin

2nd - Steve Crout

**Our next PTO meeting will be held on December 6th @ 6:30pm.**