

# Steuart W. Weller Elementary School

## PTO Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2018

Called to Order by Josh Martin: 8:03 a.m. on 9/7/2018 in the Cafeteria

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

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

- Julia was happy to announce that they had low staff turnover this year. Although sad to report that Mrs. Galvin is leaving SWES to become the art specialist for all of LoCo schools. Mrs. Galvin, you will surely be missed.
- Technology Roll Out - half of the elementary schools in LoCo received Chrome Books in Grades 3-5.
- On the morning of the 14th (8am) - Julia will host her 1st Coffee Talk with the Principal - The topics will be digital content & student technology access. Information on the meeting will be published on FB & an email sent out to all parents.
- There are currently 806 students enrolled at SWES (exactly what we had last year); we have 5 Kindergarten classes (with up to 27 kids); 4th grade has 5 classes (with up to 32 kids). The county voted to have larger size classes in those grades, using the savings of funds in order to fund all day Kindergarten in all of LoCo.

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

- Josh has been busy this summer, getting ready to launch the new PTO website, obtaining official SWES email addresses for all board members, Increasing the communication thru FB.
- Innovation Lab Update - SWES received a one time \$10,000 donation which was used to sponsor phase 1, which will be used towards furniture in our new innovation lab. Ms. Fahim has been working hard to get this ready for our students.
- Friendly reminder to link your grocery cards - Giant, HT, Amazon Smile. It is very simple and our school receives money in return for our purchases. Please sign up - it is a very easy way to give money back to our schools! Need to sign up every year.
- Matching Gifts - check with your company and see if they offer.
- NO Frills Fundraiser is in the works - please donate!
- We have had 2 spirit nights so far. Not sure of the earnings yet but another easy way to give back to our school.
- Objectives for the year - last year was celebrating previous 10 years, this year will focus on The Next Ten which is all about technology.
- Thank you to Karen for working on all of the professional graphics & Heidi for your hard work with corporate sponsorships.

- Many openings for volunteers, whether it be in the school or at home. Please ask - we can always put you to work. We currently 10-12 openings - we will send out some sort of communication to parents so that we can fill these roles.

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

- This year Anthony will focus on event planning.
- Spooky Bingo - we currently have a small committee - still need a few more volunteers. There has been an Amazon wish list created with requests for 30 prizes for Spooky Bingo. If you volunteer to work at spooky bingo - we will have a reserved table for those families so you don't have to fight for a good spot!
- Company donations always accepted.
- We purchased a movie license for the school for \$500. Our 1st Movie Night will be October 5th - free admission. We will be showing the Lego movie. There will be props for all, a photo back drop and light concessions. Thanks to our generous sponsor - Phoenix Taekwando.
- We are looking to get a new projector for the school - if anyone has a connection with a technology company to provide us a discount, it would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Secretary's Report - Brenda Stromberg**

- Nothing to report at this time.
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#### **Treasurer's Report - Carrie Wright**

- 2018-19 proposed Budget passed out to all members.
- Few changes from last year fundraising - anticipate bringing in \$10,000 thru Corporate donations.
- PTO donations from back to school picnic and back to school night - so far we raised \$1700.
- Eliminated the spring fundraiser (cookie dough).
- Expenses - \$2700 Mathletics fee was comped this year because SWES won the World Mathletics Competition (online math program).
- School beautification - doubled the amount - would like to enhance student learning opportunities - courtyard spaces, outside learning for kids (we are looking for committee members for this).
- Technology Communications & Innovations Lab - large expense added to the budget
- Julia hosted a welcome breakfast for staff
- Thanks to Derek Ellis for performing the SWES audit over the summer. Derek generously volunteered his time to audit the books.
- Payment Request Form on the SWES PTO page - if needing reimbursement please complete and return to Carrie with receipts.

Motion to approve 2018-19 SWES budget:

1st - Nancy Fuller

2nd - Jamie Levy

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- Registrations are up, with 10 days left to register - site is easy to use. Flex Academy has added a few more programs and instead of (2) 10 week sessions, we will offer (3) 8 week sessions.
- Flex will send out a survey after the 1st session to see what parents liked/disliked/wish they had offered, etc.

#### *Discussion on the new ASAP program:*

- Lack of communication regarding new offerings - some parents didn't know that there would no longer be parent involvement/volunteering for enrollment.
- Missing a few of kids favorite classes - wild cat dancers, act now, etc.
- Email Rasha if concerned about classes not being offered.
- Are we limited on offerings - parent would like to offer a 8 week class on life skills - needs insurance, etc. would like to be considered. Need to sign up with LCPS risk management.
- PTO gets \$10 per registration with Flex program.
- Josh states that we will send out FAQs to answer questions after hearing response from the meeting.

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

- Every Friday - dads spend the day in the life of a weller student. They can have lunch with their child, and attend all specials (art, music, PE) and then float around the school within that particular grade.
- Forms are available online on SWES site or in the box in the front office. The program will start in October. Nancy states that she is already booked for October, as is most of Nov, Dec and Jan.

### **SEAC - Jamie Levy**

- No meeting yet
- Special Education Advisory Committee - meets to write the budget that goes to LoCo board of education. Money is used to fund teachers for special education. Each month at meetings - they have speakers on different special education topics.

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

- Welcome back breakfast for staff - breakfast burritos, bagels, etc.
- Sign ups will go out later this month for the Teacher Lunches.

### **New Business**

- Steve Crout spoke about the Sandy Hook Promise. They have started a “Start with Hello Week” September 24-28, 2018. Reaching out to all kids by simply saying HELLO. They made morning announcements, digital videos, they made say hello bracelets, making everyone feel included. Mental health issues can be spotted as early as Elementary Schools. The point is to make sure all kids are feeling connected & engaged with each other.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06am:

1st - Rasha Saad

2nd - Brenda Stromberg

**Our next PTO meeting will be held October 4th at 6:30pm. Please make note of the new time!**