

PTO Minutes November 17, 2022

ATTENDEES-

- Welcome & Gavel-in of meeting by Tiffany 9:33
 - Approval of Oct minutes
- Treasurer Report by Rob
 - We have about \$24K on-hand (more than expected). Overall doing well.
- Announcements:
 - Restaurant nights have not been as popular as in the past. One night upcoming so we will see if it improves.
 - LPS Stride - note to bring Newton Tent next year
 - Book Fair update by Eva. Having Scholastic books donated (50%) is better than cash rebate (25%). Library had limited space which resulted in only 1 cash register - need to have at least 2 next year (does not cost extra). Also need to reconfigure volunteer timeslots. Permission slips are available in library if kids interested in books that are next grade level up (applies to regular library checkout as well as book fair). Not all kids used the book gift card.
- Events/Activities
 - LPS joint PTO teacher grants by Lisa - expecting to be able to fill all requests
 - Newton Teacher Grants by Niki - also expecting to fill all requests
 - Teacher appreciation by Tracy
 - November popcorn tomorrow
 - December Holiday Cheer campaign: feedback from last year. what worked & any changes? ecards is better/easier (in lieu of handmade cards). Set up a signup genius for donations - can be cash or gift cards.
 - Holiday Hand-up: Megan shares how many families in need. In past provided \$100 GC to Walmart. Budget \$1,500. Motion approved to increase to \$150 this year. Tiffany, Ben & Rob agreed to handle getting the gift cards.
 - Coffee Cart - very popular. Target Dec 14 (Dec 21 is 2nd choice) - was better doing it on a Wednesday.
 - Options Wish List/Staff Appreciation by Tiffany: we are expecting list soon
 - CODE Card Volunteer needed to work with Miss Gambrell. Deb Kennedy volunteered. PTO has a \$500K budget. Note The school spent \$2K to source 1st round of CODE store info.
- Announcements by Tiffany:
 - Superintendent search underway. Check out the webpage. District is seeking participation in focus groups. No cap on #'s to participate. If you are interested, join.
 - EPIC Campus to open Aug 2023. Tips for incoming freshman. This is an elective block. Travis Amonson was selected as principal (Mrs. Amonson's husband). Not a trade school - these electives are pre-cert college credits (up to 20). Open to Senior the 1st year, Juniors if room. Process to learn more is coming in January.
- Principal Update by James

- Tuesday evening district wrestling tournament was a great turnout with ~500 people attending. Newton took 3rd. It was very competitive with small margin of points between 1st, 2nd, 3rd place.
- Willy Wonka Play performances with week on the learning stairs - they seat ~350
- Girls Basketball is wrapping up. Have 1 team in 8th grade. Tournament is coming up. Newton loses a lot of athletes to club sports
- They are starting a unified team - basketball with 3-4 middle schools for special needs students
- Break next week
- Open enrollment completed this week. Unfortunately had to turn down 75 applicants. Incoming 6th grade will be ~290, current 6th grade is 276 (which is largest seen in Principal's time at Newton). Projection is 780 total - currently at 776. Current 4th grade class is even larger than incoming 6th grade.
- There is a board mtg this evening where they will be discussing possible boundary changes. Boundary changes is a very common practice at most everywhere except LPS. This is always hard for families.
- Adjourn meeting at 11:35