

Newton PTO Meeting

January 19, 2023

Attendees:

- In the room: Tiffany, James, Rob, Deb Kennedy, Betsy Brouillette, Christine Wright, Missy Crew, Karin Srigel
- Online: Tracy Duhig, Ben Berres, Laura Reeves, Janace Wallace (joined late) Jill (joined late)

Agenda Topics:

- November minutes - motion to approve (Rob); second to approve Ben, Deb
- Treasury Update - Rob
 - slightly below online pledge goal (\$21K vs \$25K)
 - amazon smile goes away next mo
 - King Soopers *need someone to lead/run this* - strategy to convert/update from prior school and recruit new families
 - overall very good financial shape
 - Megan Rotter feedback re holiday gift cards - families were thrilled
 - Code Cards - Deb to follow-up with Gambrell if our PTO donation was used up in Dec or some carry over.
 - Rob made recommendation to determine a targeted \$ amount to carry over to next year - in general the district prefers not to have a large carry over due to tax implications, usually donate the difference to the school
- Teacher/Staff appreciation - Tracy & Betsy
 - usually around valentines day
 - looking at edible arrangements - ~1 per pod; ~\$500/also elective
 - what was spent last year?
 - shift funds? money for holiday cheer; coffee cart was a huge impact
 - brainstorm what to do in May (ie) Luau & include kids and community
 - good reaction to homemade items / potluck from fall - many asked for recipes
 - Betsy has 8th grader this year - looking for replacement as she steps down (may return in future with other kids in K & 2nd)
 - Tiffany will ask about roles
 - December appreciation impact was tremendous - \$5,000
 - \$1,000 on coffee cart - the baristas dressing like elves was a huge hit and also the special deliveries (some in parking lot)
 - the rest was \$25 GCs to Amazon and King Soppers - everyone got 2 - including teachers, staff, custodians, paraprofessionals, lunch staff, etc. 80 people !! WOW & Thank you!
 - Ali has good pictures
- OPTIONS alternative High School - Tiffany
 - we sponsored a "back from vacation luncheon" \$500 at Cafe Rio
 - huge thank you from Options
- Teacher Grants - Tiffany
 - awarded ~\$2,500 for all grants requested = 7 teachers

- cool things like brain break supplies, calculators, near pods subscriptions, Raspberry Pi starter kits (STEM)
- LPS joint scholarships = longer application process
- SPIRIT Basket - Tiffany (Leslie looking for ideas)
 - \$250 to spend for silent auction item
 - Celebration event in April LPS foundation
- Shred-a thon (April) -
- Elementary Connect (Christine couldnt be here today)
 - Sandburg, Lenski, Ford
- CODE Awards - a big deal
 - Deb to follow-up with Gambrell on 2H school year and dates/plans. perhaps we can do a signup genius to have trinkets/snacks donated
- Restaurant Nights - low attendance. only 2 more this year.
- Retirement Tea - 2 people: Ms Petrelli & Ms Hissim
- BBQ - James does not need any help from PTO
- Returning to Role - Ben will be PTO president; need to find him a VP, Tiffany will be sending out a note to the full group and confirm who is returning and what positions are vacant
- High School Info:
 - Heritage = Feb 7
 - Arapahoe = Feb 22 + they also come to talk to kids Jan 25 (~80% of the newton kids go there)
 - Littleton doesn't usually have one
- Colorado Gives raised \$250
- Update from the Principal / James
 - Jan & Feb are generally quiet
 - performing arts performance today
 - incoming 6th graders tours in April
 - wrapping up enrollment. proj 781 before winter break; with opt-in's are looking at 795 for next school year (capacity is 800)
 - PTO has been finding 1/2 point and have heard district will fund it next fall (means district \$ would cover 2 social workers and 2 psychologists without PTO)
 - Tuesday evening (2 days ago) = district open house - had ~75 parents
 - top question was regarding his (James) intention to stay vs retire
 - he plans to stay one more year - working with Clay on transition and succession plans
 - Superintendent search: 25 applicants > 8-10 interviews > 2-4 finalists for live streaming and community days > expecting decision at March board mtg.
- Reading Counts Update from Karen
 - pilot with ReadNQuiz went well. has price quote to make the change. is less \$1900 vs \$2400. Kids liked it.