

TES Parent Teacher Group Meeting

October 4, 2018

1. Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Present: Nicki Gorham, Lisa Magnus, Kathryn Anderson, Tricia Tallman, Stephanie Wilcox, Brianne Jenkins, Sasha DeLeon, Lindsay Reed, Sarah Trent, Laura Cherry, Michelle McDowall, Natalie Ryan
3. Principal Update
 - a. The buzz-in system is up and functional. They are working through the glitches and there is a little less angst knowing not just anyone can walk in the front door. Parents are still attending morning meeting and during curriculum night, several parents stopped Nicki to let her know how appreciative they are about the changes.
 - b. Help Counter was rolled out at the same time as the buzz-in system and has also been going really well. The first volunteer just got her 12 hour "balloon celebration" on the app! Eventually, the plan is to have students coming in late use it for check-in as well.
 - c. Walk, Bike and Roll week is next week. This is put on by Safe Routes to School and one day the coordinator of the program will be out front with the bicycle smoothie machines.
 - d. A request was made to have the volunteer form all parents must complete posted to the website. This is the form required for parents/guardians to be able to enter the school to visit or volunteer.
4. District Update
 - a. Laura Scruggs is continuing to act as PTG liaison to the Parent Advisory Board. She was unable to make it to the meeting tonight, however requested we let her know if we have anything we would like her to bring up and she will bring us an update from the board at the next PTG meeting in November. No issues were raised by those in attendance.
5. Teacher Liaison Update
 - a. Kathryn reported the teachers liked having the jog-a-thon in the fall. Parents did request more time to fundraise for next year, PTG members agreed not enough time was given. Two full weeks was discussed and decided for next year.
6. Jog-a-Thon
 - a. Trisha notified the group that so far, \$12,000 was raised from the jog-a-thon! Everyone agreed the raffle items and prizes for top earners were great motivators for fundraising.
 - b. Due to the success of the event in the fall, it was agreed we will plan to hold the jog-a-thon at the beginning of the year next year.
 - c. There were some issues around figuring out which students had the most laps. There was an honesty component, but also there ended up being multiple winners per grade. One solution may be to wait to announce winners for each grade, another solution is to refine the system we use to help students tally laps (i.e. color coding). We will talk further to refine this process for next year.
 - d. A question was raised about why we have students fundraise for a flat fee versus per lap. The reason for this is due to the volunteer hours it takes to put on the jog-a-thon as well as organization. Fundraising for a flat amount allows us to collect envelopes on the day of the jog-a-thon and organize winners, prizes, etc. Plus, this prevents students and families from having to go back and collect money.
 - e. Ideas were discussed surrounding how to make the jog-a-thon even more fun for next year: setting up soccer goals or PVC tunnels and hang flags on them for students to run through, have bubble machines running around the track, have the Thurston Elementary Cheetah mascot cheering kids on, get athletes from the U of O or other schools to come run with the kids.
7. Movie Nights

- a. Dates have not been set for this year yet.
8. Upcoming Fundraisers and Events
 - a. Socktober – Happens all October. Socks collected will be donated to Catholic Community Services.
 - b. Watch D.O.G.S. – The first WatchD.O.G.S. Friday is coming up on October 12th. A large turnout is expected. Nicki announced a press release has gone out to media, so there may be some coverage of the program! WatchD.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is a nationwide program, Nicki believes TES is one of the few schools in this area to do the program however, and it is a great way for dads to get involved with the school. More information about the program can be found at dadsofgreatstudents.com
 - c. Popcorn Friday – The first popcorn day is tomorrow, October 5th. An idea to have kids earn popcorn for wearing Cheetah Gear to school was brought up. The idea was to help sell Cheetah Gear as well as raise money for popcorn. Trisha noted we do not actually earn a profit or sell cheetah gear for a fundraiser, so this wouldn't work.
 - d. SCRIP Order – Will be coming out at the end of October. SCRIP is a list with different vendors gift cards can be purchased from and a certain percentage comes back to the school. The school gets money back for things TES families may be buying anyway.
 - e. Cheetah Wear – Stephanie is working on getting the order together. We will do two orders this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. She is exploring a new design and will run it by the board once it is available since the order will come out before the next PTG meeting.
 - f. Box Top Civil War Contest – This contest will run November 1-21. Students can earn a green or orange football per 5 box tops. The classroom earning the most footballs will win a tailgate party. Trisha reminded everyone some box tops are expiring November 1st, so be sure to get those in before the contest begins. Box tops can also be used for popcorn.
 - g. Month of Giving – This fundraiser will take place for the entire month of November. It is a change drive for families at TES who need more help during the holidays. 5-10 families are usually able to be supported with food or other needs.
 - h. STEM/STEAM Night – This is a big project which takes a lot of planning. For now, this event is on hold, but Laura Cherry's mom offers a similar program at Agnes Stewart and Laura is utilizing this experience to plan for a STEAM/STEM night with TES eventually.
 - i. Splash Night – Sasha DeLeon has looked into Splash night and came up with a few options for the group to consider. One is for a Monday or Wednesday evening from 6-7:30 at \$320/hr. We would have to share the lap pool on those evenings. The other option is for a Saturday from 11 to 1 at \$370/hr. The pool opens at 1, however families would have the option to stay and swim as long as they would like. This is a cost to rent the entire pool. Lisa noted she would like to combine this event with a fundraiser for Food for Lane County and ask families to bring a canned food donation. It was agreed a Saturday date was preferred over a weeknight. February was also discussed as a good time to hold this event. Sasha will look into finalizing details and will report back.
9. Program Description List – Sarah Trent offered to work throughout the year to put together an informational list describing the various programs, fundraisers and projects with which the PTG is involved. It will be a way for TES parents and families to learn more about what we do.
10. Family Fun Night
 - a. Raffle Baskets – Lindsay Cantlen and Andrea Brandsma have agreed to co-chair this project.
 - b. Art Raffle – We will be supporting this project again for FFN this year, Lisa will check in with Beth and do a supplies inventory so we can set a budget and solicit for donations needed for projects.
11. Curriculum Night

- a. Curriculum night went well this year. Having only one night was helpful. Nicki just got all the sign-in sheets back today from the event and Kathy will be tallying them to gauge the levels of parent participation.
 - b. A few ideas for next year were discussed, one idea was to have it as more of an open house format so kids can showcase what they have been doing in school so far. It was also agreed Curriculum Night is an important time for teachers to communicate to parents their classroom expectations for the year.
12. Tasting Tables
- a. Nicki let the organizer of the tasting table program know we are on board, but hasn't received feedback regarding dates yet. There were some questions about requirements for parents helping; food handlers cards, prep work, etc. Nicki stated there will be oversight from the district so parents can help without limitations.
13. Parking Lot
- a. A walk through with Lt. McKee with the Springfield Police Department has not happened yet due to his full schedule. The issue of cars parking in the bike lane has improved as well as parent behavior during pick and drop-off times.
 - b. Stephanie noted the signs that have been placed around the parking lot this year about responsible cell phone use, etc. are helpful. There was discussion about reminders and information we can put on the signs to continue to use them effectively. Nicki informed us these signs are only on loan; they are part of a pilot program and move from school to school. The sandwich board signs are very expensive, however ideas were discussed regarding making signs with various reminders about parking lot procedures and processes.
14. Curriculum Need
- a. Nicki discussed the new math curriculum, which has a component called Door 24. The idea was to use door 24 to replace the Reflex program, however Door 24 has not been functioning properly. As a result, we do not have a proper platform for students to practice math facts. The hope is to have Door 24 in place for next school year, but a solution is still needed for this year. The license for Reflex costs \$3,200.
 - b. We do have a line item in the budget of \$2,600 for math curriculum that has not been utilized. Lisa moved to amend the budget and increase it to \$3,200. Trisha gave a second. All in favor of this change. The motion was passed.
15. School Safety and ALICE
- a. A question was raised regarding the ALICE program and how parents may be able to support the teachers and learn more about what the lockdown drills involve at TES. It was suggested we contact the Springfield Police Department about hosting a Safety Night. Brianne will look into organizing this and report back.
16. Windows and Blinds
- a. Sara brought up that her student attends Kids Club after school and she has noticed that it gets very warm in the cafeteria with the sun coming in through the windows. She is wondering if anything can be done about this.
 - b. Nicki stated she had Budget Blinds out last year to do an assessment on the cost to install more effective blinds throughout the school because there are also issues with document readers, hosting movie nights, assemblies, etc. We do not have it in our building budget to purchase blinds and since that TES is a newer school, there are schools throughout the district that have needs higher on the list for funding. She has considered looking into splitting the cost into chunks over the years to add/replace blinds little by little.

- c. Lisa noted large that there are large budget items the Parent Group has been fundraising for and will continue to for years to come. For example, a covered area out front so kids don't get soaked during pick-up likely won't be filled until long after our kids graduate.
- d. It was suggested someone contact Willamalane and other groups that utilize the cafeteria space to talk about a joint effort to fundraise for more effective blinds.

17. Playground Activities

- a. A question was asked about why soccer goals or other activities are not offered during recess. Part of the issue is the field is technically a wetland and gets very mushy during the rainy season. Nicki also noted they try to encourage free play such as shooting hoops, kickball, etc. due to the amount of supervision able to be provided at recess times. There are cones and soccer balls kids could make their own "goals" with.

18. Meeting Adjourned at 7:28pm

Submitted by Brianne Jenkins, PTG Secretary