

# TES Parent Teacher Group Meeting

October 5, 2017

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, Erin Chamberlin, Cher Keele, Christina Wolf, Jocelyn Matthews, Amber Shireman, Lindsay Cantlen, Sandra Anderson, Beth Atkerson, Laura Cherry, Kimmy Bixby
3. Principal Update
  - a. Mrs. Gorham reviewed the attached attendance spreadsheet. Her goal is to look at the issues that cause kids to miss school. In April 2017, 114 kids were consider at-risk for attendance, which is 10-19% of the school year. When kids reach the point of missing 20% or more of their school days, they are considered "severely at-risk" meaning they are unlikely to graduate.
  - b. Two days missed per month over a student's K-12 career accounts for an entire year of school, which is very significant. TES is doing their best to put things in place to help kids with this, because at this point in their life, it is not only up to the child to get to school. This school year, the pattern looks continuous to previous years' data.
  - c. Discretion is left to the school district regarding truancy laws. A few new things being put in place surrounding attendance. For example, even leaving 15 minutes early is considered a tardy. Motivating incentives to attend school will be taking place in the coming months.
  - d. Walk, Bike, Roll to School day is tomorrow, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Kids will receive prizes for taking part.
  - e. The first Watch-Dog Friday is also taking place October 13<sup>th</sup>. A group of Dads come to TES to participate and play games in the gym. Students are selected by teachers to participate.
  - f. The first popcorn day of the year also takes place tomorrow, October 6<sup>th</sup>.
4. District Update
  - a. Newsworthy information hitting the Register Guard as early as tomorrow: This year the District total is down about 300 students. This is significant because Springfield's budget is based on the number of students attending. There may be questions about giving funding back to the state. They are looking at solutions to this issue.
5. Teacher Liaison Update: None, homework surveys to be discussed later in the meeting.
6. Bylaws Review
  - a. Lisa moved to modify the bylaws and change the name of the Parent Volunteer Group (PVG) to the Parent Teacher Group (PTG). Trisha gave a second. All in favor or the change, motion was approved.
7. Dinners Out Fundraisers
  - a. Christina Wolf notified the group that our Papa's Pizza fundraiser this year raised \$746.50! Dinners Out this year scheduled so far include: October 24<sup>th</sup>, Chipotle (we get 50% back on this one); November, BJ's; March, Buffalo Wild Wings and possibly Menchie's; December 7<sup>th</sup>, Mod Pizza; January and February, Roadhouse and Dickie Jo's.
  - b. Last year \$1,532.68 was raised in total.

- c. It is also planned to do Papa's Pizza Coupons again this year. We receive money depending on how many sheets of coupons students sell; \$15 per sheet is kept for the school. It's a great fundraiser and last year we made over \$2,000 and Papa's was very generous and donated pizza for the class that sold the most. The group discussed when the fundraiser should take place, possibly January, and ideas around how to generate more buzz about the fliers.
- d. A question was asked about a fundraiser where people may be able to donate directly to the school rather than having to participate in something. It was brought up that the upcoming Read-A-Thon is a great time to do this.

#### 8. Read-A-Thon

- a. The Read-A-Thon begins October 16<sup>th</sup> and ends October 31<sup>st</sup>. Prizes and Books will be given out to TES students on October 31<sup>st</sup>, Halloween. Last year we needed volunteers to help during the book and prize giveaway. It's a great way to volunteer if you have the time.

#### 9. Cheetah Wear Order

- a. The logo for Cheetah-Wear will be changing from last year and will be the original design listed on the agenda handed out tonight. We will be getting quotes from vendors to get the best deal on gear. We will not be holding extra stock of gear this year, we will only fill by what has been ordered.

#### 10. Volunteer Updates and Opportunities

- a. Help is needed for popcorn days. A sign-up sheet is posted on Mrs. Laird's counter.
- b. Halloween Read-A-Thon Volunteers are needed.

#### 11. Upcoming Fundraisers and Events

- a. We would like to get a great jump start on Family Fun Night this year! The raffle has been dwindling over the past few years. An idea was presented to have each class do an art project and then auction it to raise money. Beth Atkerson said she would help coordinate this during Library time. Lindsey Cantlen volunteered to coordinate the raffle baskets for each class. Christina Wolf volunteered to coordinate volunteers and volunteer sign-ups. A suggestion was also made to ask High School students to volunteer for FFN since they need volunteer hours. University of Oregon also has a program called "Oregon Heroes" for athlete volunteers. An idea was also brought up that raffle tickets or free child admission could be provided to parents as incentives to volunteer. Laura Cherry volunteered to coordinate the bounce houses.
- b. A concern about the cost for Family Fun Night was raised. The issue is that at \$7 per child, it can be very costly for families. The \$7 admission charge has not changed for several years, and we do offset that cost by allowing teachers to give free wristbands to families in need. A discount for families with three children or more will be considered.
- c. Laura Cherry checked in with Skate World and Splash about nights for TES. Skate World's cost is higher, it was decided Splash would be the better option at this point in the year.
- d. Beth Atkerson volunteered to organize a STEM night for the school as a way for families to stay connected with the curriculum.
- e. The calendar will be reviewed to see where we can fit these events in.

#### 12. Items Before Next Meeting

- a. Canned Food Drive coming up in November

b. Parent Teacher Group Outreach and Incentives tabled for next meeting.

### 13. Homework Forum

- a. Mrs. Anderson began the discussion for the evening. After the topic of homework was discussed at the last meeting, it was agreed to move forward to see where to take the next steps. Mrs. Gorham added that the process is important because effective schools partner with teachers and families to be productive. Mrs. Anderson noted that our goal right now is to get opinions from the masses so we have a larger representation.
- b. Mrs. Anderson began by looking a few surveys regarding homework that could be distributed to families. There were some questions and concerns raised about the goal of the homework forum and what it means for the teachers and students; about who is making decisions regarding the issue of homework. So far, the forum has taken place at PTG meetings, but that does not mean the PTG will be making decisions about homework for the teachers, families and school.
- c. The forum was concluded with the recommendation to let parents and teachers know what is going on with a blurb of information sent out via Facebook, email or PeachJar to clarify untrue rumors about what is happening with the discussion and where things are going. Questions were raised about involvement and input from middle and secondary level and where TES aligns with how students need to interact at those levels.

### 14. Meeting Adjourned at 7:30pm

Submitted by Brianne Jenkins, PTG Secretary