

TES Parent Teacher Group Meeting

September 14, 2017

1. Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Present: Nicki Gorham, Lisa Magnus, Kathryn Anderson, Tricia Tallman, Stephanie Wilcox, Brianne Jenkins, Sandy Nelson, Erin Chamberlin, Andrea Bagwell, Theresa Bagwell, Lorene Corgain, Karen Batten, Apryl Smith, Amber Shireman, Sasha DeLeon, Laura Cherry, Debbie Carter, Sandra Anderson, Sonji Comey, Serena Wolf, Brian Jordan, MaryLee Culp
3. Introductions
 - a. The board introduced themselves to the parents and teachers in attendance.
4. Why Parent Teacher Group?
 - a. Lisa gave a brief summary of why we are a PTG and not PTA/PTO. We are able to keep our fundraising dollars in the school and say how we want to use them for our students and teachers. In addition, we do not require dues so all parents can support to their best ability.
5. Principal Update
 - a. Mrs. Gorham explained why parents are seeing a lot about pirates around the school. The TES mascot is still the Cheetah, however teachers are going through a book called, "Teach like a Pirate". PIRATE is an acronym for the things educators can do to inspire kids. TES will follow the theme throughout the year.
 - b. Communication with parents is very important for Mrs. Gorham. There are lots of ways to do this; Twitter, the school website, Facebook, the PTG Facebook Group page, and the Remind App. The look of the school website will be changing, the address will stay the same however. Stephanie Wilcox runs the PTG Facebook page and can send invitations since the page is closed. A sign-up sheet for parents to sign and be included in alerts with the Remind App was also distributed.
 - c. Enrollment Update: For the past few years, TES has been closed, meaning only students in the neighborhood are enrolled without approval. This hurt funding for staffing, etc. This year, the school moved to open status. TES now has 473 students. This is an increase of 18 students and will help with staffing and more resources for kids next year.
6. Teacher Liaison Update: None at this time, see notes about the Homework Forum.
7. Budget Update
 - a. Lisa wants us to start thinking about where we want to focus as a group to spend extra funds in our budget. Mr. Jordan brought up the categories of Music and SPED. There are lots of ways technology can help in these areas. Mrs. Atkerson brought up that the library will be getting MacBooks from the district, but it is difficult to serve the needs of the younger kids with those devices. It would be helpful to have iPads or similar tech. Mrs. Gorham brought up that there is a line item in the school budget for PE equipment, but they are in a hole and it may not be attainable. The PE equipment (separate from outdoor/playground equipment) is looking decrepit and needs to be replaced.
8. Budget Breakdown

- a. During the 2016-2017 school year a total of \$17,667.38 total was fundraised. A total of \$15,000 was donated to technology. This allows the PTG to sponsor and/or coordinate activities and programs such as class field trips, Family Fun Night, Cheetahwear, school assemblies and programs, popcorn Fridays, Field Day, movie night concessions, read-a-thon, jog-a-thon, book exchange, snacks for testing, school library funding, school music program funding, math curriculum, track maintenance and staff appreciation.

9. Budget Review and Approval

- a. Tricia reviewed the budget. Lisa motioned to approve. Stephanie gave a second. All in favor, budget was approved.
- b. Christina Wolf has agreed to head up Dinner Nights Out where different restaurants provide percentages of the proceeds from their total sales to TES.
- c. Lisa explained to the group about SCRIP orders and how they help TES as well.

10. Donation Update

- a. The PTG has received an offer over the summer from a new local Orthodontist, Dr. Epperson. We do not yet know what the donation will entail, but representatives with the office will be at the October meeting to present.

11. Calendar Update

- a. The Technology Read-a-thon is coming up in October. A coordinator for the event has not been finalized yet, but it is in process.
- b. The month of October will be "Sock-tober". Students are encouraged to bring socks to school to help those in need. Last year TES provided over 1,000 feet with socks!
- c. The entire month of November will be the "Month of Giving" at TES. Students will be asked to bring change to help TES families in need over the holidays.

12. Volunteer Needs

- a. There are a lot of events the PTG can make happen with more parent involvement and help. For example, we no longer have Splash or Skate World nights because of a lack of volunteers. Parents do not necessarily have to come to meetings, there are lots of ways to help. More hands equals more done! We could get a jump start of Family Fun Night or Food Cart Night for example. Everyone is encouraged to help however they can.

13. Curriculum Night

- a. On September 19th Curriculum Night will be held at TES. The night begins with parents gathered in the gym. There are a few teachers who have prior commitments and will meet on a separate night. Their classes will be notified by email. The parent Group will present and parking lot changes will be discussed.

14. Homework Forum

- a. A discussion was held surrounding the topic of homework. Mrs. Anderson began the forum by letting all attendees know that the goal of the forum was to begin the discussion and see where parents and teachers want to go with it and at the end of the forum, decide whether or not to continue debating the topic.
- b. There is no district mandate about homework, it is left to the discretion of the Principal.
- c. Reading with your child is not considered "homework", this is separate.

- d. Mrs. Anderson distributed reading material and resources to explore the topic of homework further.
- e. Many points were raised throughout the forum. A few included:
 - A Fourth Grade Teacher who feels we would do a disservice to students by not giving them the practice now and sees homework as a dialogue between parent and teacher.
 - Homework tutors should be offered to those kids who struggle to complete homework tasks.
 - Kids need a break when they get home after the school day.
 - Kindergarten, 1st Grade and 2nd Grade teachers have all made the decision not to give homework.
 - It was suggested we contact the Middle School and find out what their direction is regarding homework.
 - Parent concerns about being able to stay engaged and aware of what is happening at school.
 - Parents being able to understand the homework coming home in order to help their child(ren) is difficult at times. A website to help with math was brought up, wolframalpha.com.
- f. After much discussion, Lisa proposed we continue the discussion on this topic. It was agreed that the topic will be revisited at the October PTG meeting.

15. Meeting Adjourned at 7:24pm

Submitted by Brianne Jenkins, PTG Secretary