PTO minutes

12/1/2021, Via zoom. Called to order 7:08pm

In attendance – Principal Herlihy, Lori Zinner, Sue Johnston, Shion (Shy) Walsh, Barbara Mauger, Carolyn Virgilio, Julie Winsett, Joris Gjata, Nik Jathar, Sangeeta Jathar, Jess Lourie.

Principal Update – Principal Herlihy

Inclusive weeks coffee next week. Will include special education update, and how we are supporting kids academically and socially emotionally. Will introduce new SW, new interventionist, and teachers. Will include co-taught class. Will include f/u lessons with kids. Kids started well, plan to revisit expectations with kids. Working on community building, consistency.

Chorus will start next week; not singing. He is working with 4th and 5th graders individually, getting to know kids.

Now eating outside most of time. Will eat outside if 40-degrees or higher. Although trying to maintain consistency too, with classroom expectations.

Friday morning will place plaque dedication for former K aide who passed away.

Blue Zone was evaluated, assessment was adult behavior related.

Holiday gift guide – Lori Zinner

Room parents received info today. PTOC wants to make sure gifts for staff are equal; that staff outside of classroom teachers are also recognized. Co-Ps made guidelines, of $75 for teacher, $145 for group fund, and extra monies towards classroom gift. This will allow all staff who help our children are acknowledged. It became apparent during COVID how many staff is involved in our kids’ lives every day. We have 59 staff; 4 are specials teachers, who will get $75 as well. The other 55 staff will get $40 giftcard. The co-taught and K classes need to account for the 2 teachers, or in K the asst teacher, but other classes do not need to gift aides. If parents donate $20, will be enough.

Action items: Lori/Jess have messaged room parents; awaiting contributions; will assess how class collections are going

Holiday gift drive – Lori Zinner

Room parent should have sent link. Additional items have been added. Some people have asked if they can donate additional items, like giftcards – TJMaxx would be an option. Deadline is 12/10. Unwrapped gifts. Sherri Bianchi is doing a great job, a lot of work. Someone mentioned there are additional charities if extra gifts, such as home for little wanderers in JP.

Action items – Sherri will complete collections, coordinate delivery with SW

Pet Calendar – Joris Gjata

Had 40-50 submissions for pet calendar photos. Taking orders now. Joris is working on design, will have complete in next 1-2 days then send to printer.

Action items – Joris will finalize and send to printer

Green Jump start grant – Joris Gjata

Got permission to use revised proposal.

Joris is working on teacher survey. Asking for teacher feedback, and seeing what is helpful for them. Beth suggesting involving specialists. Deadline for spending is 12/3, Joris needs to give them an update/report at that time. Let grant people know it was a learning curve, such as where funds had to be deposited etc. Survey strategies were discussed: Keep brief. Give a few days with a deadline. Faculty meeting on 12/8, could try to give time then. Maybe include a power point slide or 2 for overview. Co-Ps asked a few teachers about what they might utilize outside; logs with animals in them can be educational. Survey question ideas: What would help you get outside? What items do you need? What in your curriculum do you want to tie it to? Include ranked order of some items - ie would clipboard, would tree stumps help you come out to do writing? For ranked orders, maybe supplies vs seating vs temperature/not cold. Program has some suggested guidelines based on previous teacher surveys. Use survey to make teachers aware, get feedback.

Action items – Joris/GT will send teacher survey

Annual Fund – Nick Jathar

Raised $17,000 in venmo account. Totaling amounts, will have official total tomorrow. Venmo is helpful, does not charge fee, and easier to handle than checks; sometimes have to infer what the money is for, ie annual fund vs pet calendar. Venmo provides report.

He is reviewing the teacher stipends.

Discussed using venmo for teachers. Privacy concerns – have to set transaction to private.

Discussed adding photo – CS logo - to venmo handle

Action items – Nick will share official totals. Add CS logo to Venmo handle

CAS update – Lori Zinner

Gave update sent by CAS. They had meeting this am about AuthorFest, will be deciding on authors in next few weeks.

1st grade Wingmasters planned for spring.

Virtual program for K being planned. Kemp Harris – storyteller. Virtual given time of year.

Directory update – Julie Winsett

Printed, distributed last week. A few people requested that forgot to order.

Could include blurb in next Update to remind to send people to website. Include it has special info, like absence line, blue zone etc.

Action items – Julie will submit Update blurb. Julie monitoring for requests for directories.

Teacher luncheon

Carolyn Virgilio volunteered. Thank you! More planning to follow.

MCF and Musical

Have director for Musical, who also will be volunteering with MCF. Having some meetings to sort out details.

ELL Thanksgiving – was on Zoom. Attendance was lower on zoom. People shared different traditions.

Bulb planting – Julie Winsett

Went well, had a few new families. And some GT members. Will look out for beautiful blooms in the spring!

Joris updated there are additional grants available, including grants for teachers, from Newton foundation.

Next meeting – Jan 5, 2022.

Adjourned 8:30pm