

SLLIS - PTO Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Tugrul Ozdemir (VP) opened meeting

PTO President Update – Tina was ill, so Tugrul updated that Kathryn Bonney, a TCP parent representative resigned as communications chair, to spend time with her family.

There will be no PTO meeting in January, however, parents should be thinking about who they would like to nominate for next year's slate of officers. There were some parent confusion on terms and positions, so clarification is requested.

Fundraising Update (Lydia Chen) –

- more than \$6,000 was sold during the recent EPI Funds fundraiser. This will result in more than \$2,000 of profit was raised to help benefit the field trip transportation needs.
- Giving Tuesday did not meet its goal (\$7,000) but DID exceed previous years by 5X! This year \$1,055 was raised during 24 hours. Parents can still make donations online, or they can contact Lydia at Lydia.chen@sllis.org
- Grants – Lydia has received award letters from both Ameren (\$10K) and Wells Fargo Advisors (\$5K), and she is working on a request to Monsanto for funding to support a science curriculum.
- Grants are a major focus this year and taking a great deal of Lydia's time to research, meet with donors and then write the grants. Lydia mentioned there is a toolbox she is putting together to assist parents to assist in grant writing – should be available by the end of January and contact Lydia for more details. She encouraged parents to keep their eyes and ears open for possible opportunities and share them with her as early as possible. Grants that are focused on educational support is ideal. Lydia also suggested parents could assist in writing grants and requests and if they have experience or interest, they should contact her or work through the PTO.
- PTO fundraising – Lydia requested the PTO fundraising committee consider focusing their efforts on helping meet the goal so that each class will have the chance to participate in 1 more field trip this year.
- Other ways to raise money as a parent:
 - eScrips – through Schnucks. Rikki Millet (Fundraising committee chair) has a large number of these cards and is activating them to help with parent involvement. Look for these at the reception desks at each campus soon. When you go online, you are able to also do other shopping, which ALL will help benefit SLLIS.
 - Amazon Smile – don't forget to go to amazonsmile and select SLLIS as the charity. Then when you purchase gifts, through amazon smile, SLLIS will receive a donation!
 - TJ Pizza – this is a sale fundraiser that the schools will participate in this spring – more to come

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- Box Tops – keep cutting and saving! Each class will be equipped with a box to save them, so send them with your kids anytime – NOT just at collection deadlines. Parent feedback had been positive on fun classroom challenges, so Lydia is continuing to work with Angela (TSP) parent on promotion throughout the year.

VP/Social Committee Update (Tugrul Ozdemir) - Tugrul invited all parents to join the newly formed SLLIS Forum. A hand-out was shared to all participants. <http://sllisocpto.boards.net>
The PTO email address is busybeeppto@gmail.com

Treasurer Update (Debi Viamontes) – Debi reported that she was able to find a clear process flow-chart to assist with the final steps of the 501(c)3 filing process. She has spoken with the state filing office and confirmed that the bylaws are complete, Tax credit (EIN) complete, the Articles of Incorporation should be completed by end of week and once the application is filed, the PTO can move forward on purchasing insurance (which is a requirement).

The PTO is coordinating the volunteer and fundraising effort for this year's Mardi Gras (March 2018) – more to come. Parent volunteers must complete a training held at Anheuser Busch.

School Admin Update (Rob Beisendorfer) –

- It was announced that the GoFundMe page for Camille (the TSP student whose mother was killed in a car crash) has raised over \$3,000!! Mr. B shared that he visited Camille at the hospital and also attended her mother's funeral at Jefferson Barracks. The parents and school are keeping Camille and her family in our thoughts.
- He thanked Liz Turpin for coordinating, and the other parents for helping provide a terrific teacher appreciation day during the recent Parent/Teacher Conference day. Thank you cards have been giving to Tugrul to thank the parents who helped. He felt this was a GREAT way to show appreciation and because these days are so filled, the teachers really appreciated the chance to grab a quick snack or meal when their time allowed. He said the variety was also great – breakfast pastries, chili, coffee, etc.
- Related to the Parent Teacher Conference – Rob is requesting parent feedback. This year it was done a little differently – new format and timing. He asked comments be sent to him via email at rob.biesendorfer@sllis.org
- Rob and Meghan are still working to find a good schedule that allows appropriate coverage and follow-up for each campus. The 5 day rotation (implemented mid-semester) worked better, but is still not ideal. Through Dec. 22, Meghan will be at Papin and Rob will be at Marine. Meghan is due mid-January, so additional coverage is being implemented. Sebastien, the Asst. Principal at Marine and Maribel, the Asst. Principal at Papin will both assist in coverage, as will other administrative support be brought in through the spring semester.

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- Rob re-introduced the cultural program leaders

Update on School Improvement Plan – there are 3 initiatives/focuses currently.

1. Attendance – it is critical for all students to be in school for the entire day. Not only is it critical for learning, but it also has a direct implication on funding the school receives. Basically, if your child is missing 1 day, that equals \$35 in lost revenue for the school from MO DESE. Schools are funded in part, based on the Average Daily Attendance (ADA). SLLIS has a goal of 95% - which means 95% of their students are attending each day. Rob was excited to announce that the registrar has been hard at work cleaning up all registration data (e.g., removing students from our roles and record keeping who were enrolled but have not attended this year). Using the updated roles, SLLIS reached 98% ADA!
2. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Supports in the Classroom) – administration and staff are reviewing data and student behavior. There are approximately 2,000 incidents recorded when they pull all data together. Having this data, they can then identify trends and help provide support as needed. Examples include looking at WHEN incidents are occurring, classroom's/languages involved to determine if scheduling should be addressed, or additional support in place during certain times of the day.
3. Goal setting – iReady (math and reading) – students are seeing improved scores. And teachers are reporting that students are taking initiative as it relates to doing their work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- French Winter concert is (was) 12/14 at Cherokee Rec Center
- Teacher recognition – new teachers have started participating in a shadow program. This will allow a newer teacher to experience other classrooms and interact with other teachers to help onboard them for success. Already received positive feedback.
- Bus Families – a survey went out and SLLIS is working with First Student to help update their roles. By removing students who are not currently using the bus (but are still on the roles) there is a cost savings for the school. Stops may be eliminated and pick-up/drop-off times adjusted accordingly. They should contact Patrick Moynihan, Operations Manager patrick.moynihan@sllis.org
- Language/IB/English/MAP testing – School is reviewing current programs and recommendations are being made to ensure SLLIS is meeting the needs of all students.
- 8th grade – students are now applying for HS placement. Mr. B mentioned Cardinal Ritter and Metro, among other schools. He's very proud of the 8th graders.

PARENT QUESTIONS

- Substitute teachers – parent asked about finding subs that are proficient in the target language. Mr. B shared that SLLIS is using ParallelMO eSchool Solutions for their substitutes. This is a program set up that other MO school districts use. Unfortunately there is a shortage of subs, period, much less any that offer language proficiency in

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another language. He shared that there are days where 7-8 subs are needed. Teachers contact ParallelMO directly, when they know they are unable to come to school (e.g., wake up sick). For long-term sub needs, Linda Holiday (SLLIS Talent Director) has been working on long-term solutions with the goal of finding long-term options who can support the curriculum and language needs.

- Another option that has been tried on 1 off days, where a teacher is sick – 1st grade Spanish and K Chinese have broken kids up with other language classes, to help provide exposure to the language, however, parent feedback at meeting included the concern that its disruptive.

FACILITY/TECH Committee update – LaCheaa Gray (parent leader)

- she has received a request by SLLIS to address the need for headphones. She asked if these could be added in future years to the school supply list. Also suggested sending a note home in backpacks, and also in the weekly teacher newsletters to encourage parents to send head phones with kids in their backpacks. Sebastian confirmed that ALL earphones (earbuds) are compatible with their computers. Sebastian confirmed he would be a contact to the committee and apologized for not returning her earlier email, but made follow-up plans at the meeting (and immediately following).
- Another parent suggestion was a new slide at Papin (and other playground equipment). Any equipment that is purchased and installed would need to be ensured that it could go to the next building, since the Board facilities committee is still working on a master campus plan.

Also confirmed there is a box at each campus for PTO questions and needs and when asked about how often these are checked, it was suggested to reach out to Patrick for clarification.

Meeting adjourned – 7pm

Next meeting date (Wednesday, February 7th @ Papin)

Minutes prepared by Amy Trapp

<http://sllisocpto.boards.net/>

busybepto@gmail.com