West Middle School PTO Meeting - Draft: To Be Approved 03/09/2021

Attendees:

Gretchen Bertz

Michael Bertz

Ellie Davis

Jeanna Gossett

Pamela Hermann

Liza Lampi

Jennifer McGillivary

Dr Anne Miller

Lisa Tarter

Meeting called to order at 7:06

Motion to approve meeting meetings from last meeting on 02/09/2021. Motion made by Pamela Herman and seconded by Gretchen Bertz. Vote held by show of hands. Motion passed.

Congratulations to Leigh Klawiter for being selected West Middle and Parkway District Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Paul Chua for being selected Support Staff of the Year!

The PTO gave them both a $50 Visa gift card and a plant as a thank you.

The PTO is looking for a target project for next year. Options being considered include bleachers, an amphitheater, counselor’s corner or audiovisual equipment for presentations in the gym. Dr Miller is looking into the potential costs involved.

In addition to the funds received from Spirit Night at Papa John’s Pizza, we currently have 8 large pizzas that we can use for something. It was discussed that it is not feasible to use the pizzas for teacher appreciation lunches or 8th grade celebration due to covid and the inability to share food. Considering having them as giveaways.

Teacher appreciation was discussed and the need for individual prepackaged food items. Other options include yard signs, bundt cakes like last year or notes to the teachers.

Jennifer McGillivary is the PTO Board Government Relations Representative. She attended a recent virtual meeting that was attended by Missouri school district superintendents and Missouri legislature. The big topic of this meeting was getting covid vaccines for teachers. They also discussed school choice. It is recommended to call your representative to voice your thoughts. Jennifer will write an article for the PTO newsletter about Government Relations updates for awareness.

Jeanna Gossett and Pamela Hermann provided an update on fundraising. The spiritwear store recently closed an offering for next school year’s incoming 6th graders. The next store will be open around March 22nd. The virtual trivia night is set for April 16th. We have hired a professional trivia event organizer, Trivia Hub, to run our event at a cost of $600. Tickets are $20 a person so we need 30 attendees to break even. We have started requesting donations for an online auction. We already have several donations such as a wine tasting, bowling party, Kendra Scott jewelry and custom t-shirt quilt. The auction will be available using 32auctions application. We are still seeking donations if anyone has a contact or would like to donate. Maybe you received a gift card that you don’t plan to use or a second air fryer that is still new in the box that you would like to donate for the auction. It was suggested to ask Circle 7 and The Shack. It was suggested to have the West Middle sign available for an auction item. We are also in need of round sponsors at a cost of $100.

We need volunteers to help pickup the donations from businesses for the silent auction that have already been solicited. We will also need help delivering the winning auction items after the event. Please contact Jeanna Gossett (jeannagossett@yahoo.com) or Pamela Hermann (pamela.d.hermann@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

Lisa Tarter gave a status update for Anne Branch on the successful Nintendo gaming events that were recently held. Had been planning for a max of 50 signups, but got 60. It was a great community building activity. Looking for volunteers to host another gaming event activity if anyone is interested. The Valentine’s baking event had 20 participants with many treats being donated to teachers and first responders. The winning family received a gift card.

Michael and Gretchen Bertz gave the treasurer’s report. It was a relatively quiet month. Spiritwear and direct giving provided some income. The canopy was an expenditure. There is $4000 designated for the 8th grade celebration. We had $2400 set aside for teacher appreciation, but have already spent $2900.

Dr Miller mentioned that the Lighthouse Project has pj pant day on Friday for $1 donation. Donations going to Longhorn Lift to help families in the West community. Teachers can pay $20 to wear jeans for a week. The school is doing character education through the end of the school year. The MAP test will occur at the very end of the year and will include virtual students. West Middle will continue to wear masks for the remainder of the year regardless of CDC and St Louis County changes.

The next PTO meeting is the budget meeting for next year where we will vote on the budget.

We are still looking for a PTO treasurer for next year. The Bertz’s will no longer have children at West Middle so a replacement is needed. The board candidates for next year will be voted on at the May PTO meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.