

Fairview PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 @ 9:15 a.m.
Fairview Elementary Cafeteria

Welcome

Principal Comments

- Welcome Back!
 - New Staff: Miss Puntil, Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Hinojosa and Ms. De La Torre are all in new roles at Fairview
- Instructional Updates
 - Curriculum Nights – handouts and powerpoint presentations can be provided if unable to attend, email your child's teacher for those resources
 - STAR 360 testing, baseline curricular tests have started and are used as
- Facilities Updates
 - Many updates have been made: cafeteria has been painted, flooring redone, Zen Dens added throughout the building for kids who need the quiet/calming space, interior walls painted, ninja runs added to floors so that kids can make intentional movements while moving throughout the school
- Cafeteria
 - Breakfast is free again this year and available for all students
 - Snacks will resume next week – you can opt your child out of this or place restrictions on their account by emailing Food Services julie_geary@fcasd.edu
 - Outdoor lunches when weather permits on rotation
- Recess
 - New equipment is available to students during recess
 - Students can intermingle across grades/space
 - Gaga Ball Pit (thank you PTO and 5th grade!)
- Fall Family Event will be held on September 20th from 5-7pm
 - Parents as Allies cohort mini-grant
 - There will be a movie and snacks for the kids
 - Parents can learn more about programs, groups, activities and services offered to students and families at Fairview while the kids watch a movie and participate in fun activities
 - Parents will be able to start the clearances process (a mobile fingerprinting truck will be at the school on October 6th)
- Other
 - Friday Folder merged with my Weekly Newsletter for one weekly communication
 - Please update PowerSchool contacts if you haven't done so already

Treasurer Update

- There are reimbursement forms available or you can bring receipts to PTO meetings for reimbursement
- If you have questions about the reimbursement process or budget for your committee, please contact Brooke Young brooke1414@yahoo.com

Committees Updates

- Chess Club
 - Price increase to \$65 per student for the session beginning November 3rd
 - 35 students max but will see if they will take 36 students
 - There will a notice sent out prior to the signup genius going live so families can set a reminder
- Yearbook
 - We'd love to see photos of kids in their Fairview shirts over the summer
 - Send all photos (first day, class parties, school events, etc) to fcfairviewyearbook@gmail.com
 - What's a good way to reach families for photos beyond the pto facebook page?
- Fall Mum Sale
 - Proceeds going towards Fairview Farewell Day
 - Orders due by 9/18 and pick up day will be 9/28 from 3-6pm at Fairview
- T-Shirt Sales
 - Extras will be purchased to be sold at Homecoming
 - There will be an online order option
 - It will be a fast turnaround for ordering in order to receive the shirts in time
- Great Expectations
 - Several classes will be returning this year and Emily Joyce is in the process of adding new ones as well
 - If you have a class suggestions, please reach out to Emily Joyce emilyvjoyce@gmail.com
 - Volunteers will be needed to pull off this great event (Clearances will be needed)
 - A minimum of 4 kids are needed for any class to be held
- Fun Fair
 - There is a new committee this year and the planning is off to a great start
- Fox Trot
 - Fundraising will start on 9/11
 - The Fox Trot event will be held on 10/1 at the high school and this year there will be family races, food, crafts, music, etc.
- Homecoming
 - The homecoming booth will have a craft (possibly bracelet making or button making)
 - Tshirts and other swag will be sold at this event
- PTO Newsletter
 - A PTO newsletter will go out after each meeting, to receive one sign up online at www.fairviewpto.com
- Field Day/Farewell Day
 - Will be held in May and during the school day
 - Clearances will be needed for volunteers
- Room Parents
 - Room parents are the main contact between classroom families and the teacher

- Feedback from last year was that some classes had too many parents as room parents which made it challenging to include other classroom parents for parties
- Exploring options for the best way to handle this and will keep everyone posted once a determination is made
- In the meantime, please sign up if you'd like to be a room parent so that we can have an idea of how many parents per class are interested

Discussion & Votes

Teacher Comments

- We want to thank the PTO for the beginning of the year gifts!
- Also a reminder about our upcoming Fairview Fall Family Night
- Mrs. Dixon Square One Art information to share
 - Ideally it can be pushed back but items arrive before the holidays
 - Working with PTO parent volunteer
 - Shipping last year was expensive, will look into possible ways to bring this down
- Teacher Auction was a huge success last year and the plan is to do it again this year

Attendees: Dena Magrish, Kathryn Roecklein, Sarah Thimons, Becky Bruce, Maranda Friday, Colleen Bertolet, Abby Dorrance, Brooke Young, Carol Pohl, Lisa Hofmann, Jonathan Fuge, Anissa Faulkner, Mara Baginski, Marissa Sweeny, Karen Brubaker, Michelle Ellenberger, Lauren White, Natalie Williams, Ram Gupta, Emily Joyce, Ashley Barritt, Sarah Jones, Gabriella Bonelli, Susan Kreit

Additional Notes:

Environmental Committee Update from Melinda Guinn:

I would like to bring to the attention of our teachers and the PTO that grant funding is available to schools providing environmental education opportunities to students that enrich student learning through hands-on, student driven projects.

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/EnvironmentalEducation/Grants/pages/default.aspx>

This round of grant proposals will focus on climate change and water quality. Both climate change and water quality can be addressed by planting trees!

Fairview Elementary students have access to a twenty acre lot that the building is built on, including an estimated 500 foot section of stream crossing the back ten acres. What a great opportunity for hands-on learning!

In April 2023, I collaborated to create an opportunity for Fairview second graders (along with all 343 2nd graders in the district) to plant hundreds of trees in Salamander Park on field trips with Gabi Hughes of ASWP.

As a volunteer with ASWP, Allegheny County Parks, Fox Chapel Borough Parks and O'Hara Township Parks, I am happy to mentor and support student initiatives to plant native trees and shrubs for free through the 10 Million Trees for PA Program on the Fairview property.

I am also happy to encourage grant applications for other direct action, environmental science projects led by our students, or collaborative grant applications with ASWP.

Here's a fun video our family created last year about our environmental science project exploring the impact of plantings on soil erosion (similar to Riparian Buffers which improve the health and water quality of streams) at the 2023 Fairview Science Fair:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/eHtyiWc4wfRkzSaZ8>

I would love to engage with interested educators, students and parents on an environmental science project this year on our own campus!