

Pelican Marsh Elementary School

General PTO Meeting

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Meeting began at 6:00pm with introductions from the board members.

Lindsey Gualdoni motioned to approve last May's PTO meeting minutes. Jamie Print and Lindsey Manring approved.

President's Report –Lindsey Gualdoni

- We are excited to share our involvement with a new charity called Believe N Books. One of our PME parents, Kelly Krupp works at the Guadalupe Center and shared with us this giving opportunity. The charity started locally by an 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Fort Myers who began collecting new and gently-used books for children in need. For anyone who is interested in helping us sort the books that come in, please email the PTO.
- Please check our new PTO website and our Facebook page for information. Any questions or ideas please email us anytime at [pme@pto.com](mailto:pme@pto.com). These electronic sources will be the best ways to communicate and stay involved.

Principal's Report – Dr. Merhar

- Thank you all for being here tonight. Thank you to Lindsey for all that you've done to lead our PTO and for all that you've done for our school. I am very grateful to be here working together with all of you.
- I'm excited for the book drive and thank you all for contributing.
- Thank you to those who have come in on the weekends and after hours to help our garden grow. It is beautiful and the students are so eager to get back in there.
- Our school improvement plan will be shared the next time we meet.
- We have been looking at the data gathered from last year's FSA scores and how we can help the growth of all of our students. We have a lot to celebrate, even with the pandemic circumstances. For Grade 3 English Language Arts – 83% proficient, Math – 88%, in Grade 4 English Language Arts – 84%, Math – 87%, and in Grade 5 English Language Arts – 80%, Math – 83% and Science – 80%. We have three goals moving forward; focus on the lowest 25% in reading, lowest 25% in math and overall math.
- Field trips are on hold for now per CCPS. Hopeful we can have visitors and volunteers back on campus soon. After the first quarter finishes we should have a better idea of what restrictions will be in lifted or stay in place.
- We put together a social media team that is made up of our reading coach, media specialist, counselor and a few teachers. They will head up our school Twitter and Facebook page. It is

important to us to be able to show you all of the amazing things happening here on campus since parents can't be here to see it. Hope you will follow us on social media!

- I would love your input on how you prefer to receive communications. We are hoping our social media/Pelican Post emails, and PTO emails and meetings will keep everyone connected but please email me with any ideas.

Staff Liaison Report – Mrs. Julie Bolock – absent – given by Lindsey G

- Each year the PTO provides each teacher with a stipend for classroom use. Mrs. Bolock is helping get this process started.

Treasurer Report – Mr. Josh Sharlow – absent – given by Lindsey G

- After we review the budget tonight we will approve.
- We are so thankful for our Pelican Sponsors.
- Our budget is based on years past and as this school year goes on we will see what we will be allowed due to COVID. We don't want to move or change anything right now.
- There was a question from a parent about fifth grade year book being a line item and it was announced that it is a part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration line item.
- At the next general PTO meeting an income/expense sheet will be provided for everyone.
- A motion to approve the budget by Lindsey G, approved by Susie V and Monique Frost.

Volunteers Report – open position – given by Lindsey G

- We will make a volunteer orientation video that will be shown at the next general PTO meeting and can be emailed out to anyone who would like to volunteer.
- The hope is for everyone to be approved as a volunteer soon so that we will be ready to go once volunteers are allowed back on campus.
- Emails have gone out asking parents if they have time/skills/goods/services they would like to donate or provide to our school. For example, we could use someone who can paint, fix a wheelbarrow etc. Even if you are busy and you can't give your time, we would love to get creative and work with you for your services/input.
- Open positions are listed and described on the PTO website. Email anytime if you are interested!

Enrichment Report – open position – given by Jamie Print

- Jamie Print says she and Christianne Arthur will team up to fill this position.
- A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our garden over the summer. The next step is to get the kids learning and involved.

- Since parents are not allowed on campus, we came up with a new idea for garden lessons. We are going to create garden bins with lessons and materials for the teachers to use and have everything that they need to teach a garden lesson. If you are interested in helping create these, please email the PTO.

#### Fundraising Report – open position – given by Lindsey G

- Leah Ritchy heads our Pelican Partners program, thank you Leah!
- \$14,300 has already come in with our amazing sponsors.
- Spirit wear is our idea for fall fundraising. We will use the same company as last year to create spirit wear. Approval will be needed for the design.
- Format will be similar to last year. We will offer a variety of t-shirts to order online and it will be shipped from the company straight to the school for distribution.
- Flyer will be created with information about ordering and deadline.
- There are still left over water bottles from last year.
- Dr. Merhar purchased new spirit wear for all staff.
- How can we get the students excited to wear their new spirit shirts? Ideas were suggested by parents for a fun flyer/class shirts to be made/new featured shirt/promote on the school news/buy for those who can't afford/patriotic shirt/class competition with incentives/spirit stick/raffle drawing from principal/extra shirts are nice to pass down to siblings and turn in to donate to school/make sure parents know when to order.
- If anyone is interested in helping with this we would love to form a committee.
- Holiday House – many are interested in helping. Let's get creative with ways we can make this happen within our covid regulations. The board will present some options to Dr. Merhar.

#### School Liaison Report – Amanda Masino

- I began a website last year for the PTO. We are hoping it will be the go-to place for all information for parents and community. Go check it out....[www.pelicanmarshpto.com](http://www.pelicanmarshpto.com) and let us know any feedback of things you would like to see added.
- Yearbook is going to be with the same company as in the past. I would love to have others who want to help me with this.
- Thank you to those who helped distribute our supply packs before school began.
- Thank you Kate for heading the book fair.
- Kate reported that it begins this Friday and easier if you go to the website and put \$ on the e-wallet for your children. Mrs. Ellis works so hard to make this a fabulous event.

- Parents asked if there was a way to donate on the website extra money for students in need and then Mrs. Ellis could use to give a book to those students.
- Are there wish lists for classrooms?
- Christianne A will head the 5<sup>th</sup> grade committee.

#### Hospitality Report – Jamie Print and Heather Adams (absent)

- We will host a quarterly staff appreciation that aligns with the end of the quarter/on the early release days. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the next one and there will be a food truck.
- We are so thankful for our amazing teachers.
- If anyone is interested in helping, we especially need support for our teacher appreciation week in May.
- We will be mindful for when the teacher appreciation week will be held concerning FSA schedules.
- Can there be a place on the new PTO website to post teacher birthdays/favorites lists?

#### Open discussion

- Dr. Merhar announced the school is looking to fill a .2 pre-k assistant position. (Monday-Friday, 2 hours a day)
- Ideas for family fun nights for the future when Covid restrictions loosen. Ideas by parents...movie night at Silverspot/on campus for a movie night/bingo night.
- Next general PTO meeting will be held at 6pm on November 2.

Meeting ended at 7:15pm