

Pelican Marsh Elementary School PTO

General PTO Meeting

November 14, 2023

The meeting began at 4:30 PM in the PTO room.

Lindsey Gualdoni welcomes and thanks everyone! She opens the meeting with a general overview of the PTO spending proposal covering 3 main areas: team stipend; front door mats; and enrichment activities. We are grateful to have so many wonderful opportunities to give back to our school. The Board voted and approved this proposal. Yay!

Mrs. Lehner, PME Assistant Principal, spoke on behalf of Dr. Merhar. She begins her report by passing out a list of books that Mrs. Ellis ordered. If you have any questions or input please email Mrs. Ellis. These books have already been approved through CCPS. Remember there is a process through the county if you would like to challenge a book that is being offered in our school library. December 5 and 12 will be a closed campus for progress monitoring for all grades. December 7 and 8 will also be a closed campus just for the morning for IREADY diagnostic tests. Quarter 2 science benchmarks will be in January.

Staff Liaison report - given by Lindsey G. Mrs. Bolock is reminding teachers that their teacher stipend requests are due by Friday.

Treasurer's report - given by Yolanda Shebert. At our last PTO meeting we voted and approved our budget. Yolanda has a budget informational sheet for everyone to review. For the walk a thon we made more than we budgeted. We only budgeted \$21,000 for the Pelican Sponsors but thanks to Holly we raised \$34,000. We made \$3,000 income at the first Market at the Marsh. 5th grade donut sales are still going on but we are excited to tally the totals soon. We've sold 475 donuts and are excited to sell the rest tonight at the 4th grade musical. We purchased books for 3rd graders for reading enrichment. The movie night was not a fundraiser but more of a community event and tradition. Still waiting for the last few teachers to turn in their teacher stipend requests. Everything is going great!

Enrichment report - given by Lindsey G. Our new book vending machine is HERE. Hooray! Every Friday from 12:00-2:00 we give the books out to the Leader of the Week from each classroom. By the end of the school year all students will have had a chance to go to the book vending machine. If anyone wants to help or be apart of this special time please let me know or sign up for a small time slot. One parent asks about how we plan to replenish the book vending machine. The school was able to purchase an initial set of books and there are funds from the Read-A-Thon, which will happen again this year. Hopefully some books can be purchased during the Spring book fair as well. The PTO is finishing up helping with the last few teachers' classroom libraries. We are looking forward to 2nd grade garden volunteers. We are having a committee meeting December 1st. If you are a parent of a second grader look for more information coming home today and tomorrow. If anyone is interested in helping with general maintenance, please let Erin know.

Fundraising report - given by Lindsey G. Our first market at the marsh was a big success and so much fun for students to celebrate the end of the first quarter. Look in your Wednesday folders for information coming home regarding our school Holiday House. It will take place November 28-December 1st. Look for a sign up genius link as well to volunteer to help with this great event.

School Liaison Report - given by Lindsey G. Our PTO newsletter is the biggest way we communicate. Our PTO website is also a great place to get information. Our school book drive is still going on until after Thanksgiving. More information will come out about where we are bringing our book donations. Early in December we will begin sorting the books and pass them out through Believe-N-Books. This organization helps us by helping place the books to where they are most needed in our community.

Hospitality Report - given by Lindsey G. Our school movie night was so much fun! It was our first time hosting this event in the last four years. We are hopeful we can continue this event each year. Thank you to EVERYONE for all of your help making it happen! Our monthly spirit family get togethers are continuing. How special that two of the restaurants hosting family nights, Boston Beer Garden and Brooks Burgers, are owned by PME families. So thankful to them to hosting these fun nights and giving back to the school!

New business/questions? One parent asks if the 5th grade tile gifts from last year were able to be displayed? YES...they are proudly hanging up on the wall facing the courtyard by the production room. The fifth grade class purchased these tiles for their fifth grade class gift. A parent asks about how we are handling staff appreciation. At the end of each quarter the committee is treating the teachers and staff to a yummy lunch, and then the big staff appreciation week in the spring. It was asked how non-instructional staff can be included in the quarterly ones since on non student days they are not present. Let's brainstorm how we can make sure everyone feels thanked. On the PTO website there is also a Staff Appreciation section to check out for more information.

Lindsey G reminds everyone to never hesitate to reach out to her or to the PTO email address with any questions or input. We would love for you to join in any of our committees anytime to hear more about what's going on.

The meeting is adjourned at 5:15 PM.