

PTO Minutes
March 22, 2022

Attendees:

Alicia Gillespie	Amy Quinn	Emily Moody	Lizz Constance
Melanie McFarland	Abbey Jackson	Rachel Cole	Laura Krueger
Dan Stockmann	Michelle Craig	Janene Bolt	Steph Stang
Annie Grace	Kelsey Fischer	Mark Karpf	

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sharon Stoolman, regarding Masking and Covid

- Sharon Stoolman MD FAAP Associate Professor of Pediatrics university of Nebraska College of Medicine, Medical Director Pediatrics Madonna Rehab Hospital and Vice Chair Of DEI For Department of Pediatrics, from Omaha Graduate of Omaha Central Class of 1990 Georgetown U SFS and UNMC Med School
- Focus: Impact of Covid on Pediatric patients and other Covid issues
- Reviews ways to make best decisions re: masks, Covid with Dr. Logan
- Rachel Cole asked for talking points about why mask mandate was lifted: Masks work, but we must consider risks, number of cases, vaccination rates, not as much Covid in the community
- Emily Moody asked if booster vaccinations for kids are coming: We just got data for the 5-11 year old group, and it was not encouraging, meaning they had lower immunity than expected. We may have boosters for 5-11 over the summer, and a fourth vaccination for adults as well.
- Emily Moody asked when Dr. Stoolman would recommend we have kids wear masks: In a situation like church you may want to consider a mask. If you can, ask people if they feel sick. If you can't, maybe mask up. If a child is very young or has a lot of difficulty wearing a mask, you might opt to skip sometimes.
- Mark Karpf asked how to help kids transition from mask to no mask: Have conversations about when masks are needed, when to have breaks. Perfect masing and distancing isn't sustainable. Let them know when it's acceptable to be less rigid. People feel better since kids have been able to be vaccinated, but not all children are able to be vaccinated, so be mindful.
- Laura Krueger asked about when there will be a vaccination for kids under five: Maybe June/July. Acute Covid cases in kids present with respiratory symptoms similar to RSV, fever can be unrelenting, dehydration, Albuterol seems to help. Vaccination offers 90% coverage from Multi-System Inflammatory Disease.
- While Dr. Stoolman herself gets severe allergic reactions, she was adamant about getting the vaccination herself. Next time they might remove the preservative that seemed to cause allergic issues.

Presidents' Report: Rachel Cole and Abbey Jackson

- Feb minutes approved
- Teacher Appreciation Week: Thanks to Kelsey Fisher and Sarah Jackson. Teachers were given prizes for prize drawers, their favorite snacks and drinks, Casey's pizza, and other gifts.
- Thank you to Jamie Williams for setting up the conference dinner.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Gillespie

- Fill The Fridge was a big hit.
- Every classroom now has a radio.
- Title 1 complete report was turned in today. Peer review in April. Results in early May, but doesn't anticipate any issues.
- MTSSB (Safe, respectful, responsible program): Will stress this last quarter.

- Finished the standardized testing schedule. NSCAS: Third through sixth will take reading and math, with fifth also taking science. Then, they will take MAPP. Will do something like pep rally to keep them engaged. Maybe something fun after they finish to celebrate.
- Sixth Grade Traditions: Assembly last day of school, then home early in recent years. Clapped out on second to last day. Steph Stang mentioned that in years past, students would return to class to talk with their classmates one last time, rather than leaving early. Could someone put together a slide show? Could use fifth grade parents to help with cake.
- Scholarships for senior alums of Washington: One staff, two PTO members usually decide recipients. Two are usually chosen. PTO writes checks. Will check deadline.
- Emily Moody inquired about recent staff changes: Vazzano left Feb. 23, and her spot was filled by Ms. Ruff's previous student teacher, Ms. Shilling. Gatrost left after 3rd quarter, and her class has had substitutes. Starting April 8 a long term sub will take over.
- Annie Grace asked about other recent staff absences: Mrs. Gillespie said it hasn't been too bad, but there has been a sub shortage. Most teachers plan and set up ahead, anyway.

Continuing Business, Upcoming Events: Abbey Jackson

- Over 30 families attended bowling night.
- May 6: Carnival
- May 11: Spring Program 9:30am - 2pm
- May 13: Field Day
- May 20: Fun Run (Kicks off May 9)

Treasurers' Report: Dan Stockmann and Karen Borchert

- Currently at \$17,667.85.
- Skate Night brought in \$358.
- Bowling Night brought in \$191.40.
- Will write a \$2,000 check tomorrow to pay for the spring fundraiser through Boosterthon.
- The "Teacher In Need" drive brought in about \$1,700.
- Espresso bar for teachers: PTO helped with \$100.
- Emily Moody mentioned that we should note when large donations for events like Teacher Appreciation Week, so that the budget can reflect what typical costs are for these events.
- PTO does not HAVE to send letters to large donors for tax purposes, but it would be good practice.

Carnival: Michelle Craig, Steph Stang

- Will sell spirit wear
- Will create Sign Up Genius forms for teachers and parents to volunteer, and one for cake walk donations.
- Rachel will help with presale and wristbands.
- Steph: We will need the whole main floor if it rains.
- Time: 6 - 8pm

Fun Run: Melanie McFarland and Lizz Constance

- May 20th: Fun Run through Boosterthon. Morning will be younger kids doing a fun run, afternoon will be older kids doing a color run.
- Kickoff: May 9. Video for school/assembly.
- Teachers can show short videos for character building.
- Students get online portals to share for donations. Pledges can be flat amount or per lap. Usually 30-35 laps.

- Prizes are earned in real time, meaning students get rewards for donations the following day.
- Money comes to Washington, then we pay a percentage to Boosterthon.
- We chose the Full Support option: \$2,000 cost so that we get a representative who helps us. Prizes are no cost, and we get cones, maps, flags, etc. May not need full support in future.
- There will also be paper copies of donation forms.
- Will need volunteers: 3-4 for prize handouts those two weeks. Volunteers for setup and take down on, as well as lap counting on the 20th. Will need 4-6 volunteers per track (TBD).
- Rain out option: Dance-A-Thon in gym.

PTO Officers and Slate: Abbey Jackson

- Need slate committee.
- Want to fill committee chairs, too.
- Emily Moody and Lisa Oliveto will write descriptions of roles, and include budget.

Dancing Classrooms: Michelle Craig

- Would be for fifth grade next year.
- Maybe another skating party could cover cost.
- Will have someone speak with us.

Adjourned