

Minnewashta Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2021

Present: Heidi Post, Gretchen Padget, Brittany Yamauchi, Tara Pitkin, Barb Seifert, Michelle Le, Sarah Wexler, Eileen Anderson, Rachel Turnbull, Sarah Sirna
Anjuli Glaza, Nicki Gordon, Laura Richardson, Laura Dittenbrenner, Jill Howe

Absent: Cindy Address, Tiffany Boyer, Andrea Bach

1. Welcome and Introductions, Heidi Post, President:

- Motion to approve October 2021 PTO minutes. Motion approved.

2. Minnetonka Public School Foundation Presentation, Jill Howe:

- Jill provided overview of their mission and the Teacher Grant Programs, www.minnetonkafoundation.org for additional information.
- Minnewashta Grants – Black History Month Speakers and Minnetonka Diver Library Collection
- Endowment Fund Program – most recent was project HUB and Writing Center at High school
- Fundraisers
 - Dream Makers – largest fundraiser for the foundation – Virtual Event on 2/6 – 2/11
 - Spring Events – outdoor innovation & families event
 - Teacher Gift Program in December and May
 - Give to the Max Day
- Ways to Support: visit their website for additional ways to support the foundation
 - Encourage teachers to look at their curriculum and how they can be enhanced
 - Informational card to give to parents with additional information on the organization
 - Planning to increase their social media presence in the district social media sites
 - Jill will send Heidi links to additional info. Suggestion made to include in Cindy's Weekly Newsletter to parents as an additional way to keep parents informed on the organization.

3. Book Fair & Yearbook, Michelle Le:

- Book Fair Totals available in January
- No enrichment requests
- Halloween photos were taken – Cindy has the photos in a drive and they are saved in TreeRing.
- Book invoices – Michelle is checking with Tara and will send to Gretchen

4. Fundraising, Heidi Post:

- Heidi signed the Boosterthon contract for next year. Gretchen sent payment.
- The dates will be 9/28/22 – 10/7/22
- Nothing will be done for Give to the Max this year

5. Volunteering, Brittany:

- The Secret Shop – will start in August for the next school year.

6. Treasurer Report, Gretchen Scott:

- Budget was approved last month and has been updated on the PTO website – Budget Snap Shot
- Taxes have been filed for the year and Heidi and Gretchen will sign and to be mailed shortly
- Reviewed October transactions – uncategorized bank income is a credit from TreeRing
- Revtrack payment for Birthday Books are starting to come in

7. Presidents Report, Heidi Post:

- Heidi is looking for 2 additional roles – Staff Advocate & Communication Coordinator
 - Staff Advocate – Laura Richardson
 - Laura and Heidi will connect to discuss Teacher Appreciation in December
 - Discussed ideas:
 - Reach out to staff for feedback on what the PTO can do to further support the school community
 - Students write thank you notes to their teachers and have them made into a book
 - Develop a list of ideas for room parents to do an appreciation project for teachers
 - Communication Coordinator – responsible for posting information on a regular basis on social media.
- January meeting – review open board roles to be filled next year. Please begin considering anyone you know who may be interested in these roles.
- Birthday Books has started. November will be a catchup for Birthdays in September through now.
- District Leadership meeting – Heidi wasn't able to attend, but will share the meeting minutes to the group when received.
- Question on Playground Enhancements
 - Student driven approach – Cindy is going to let the students make recommendations, it'll be narrowed down, and the students will then vote on it.
- Heidi is planning to attend a Staff Meeting as a way to connect with teachers and to request feedback:
 - Do they feel the PTO is supporting them
 - Ask for additional feedback on what they think the PTO can do to further support them
 - Eileen suggested – PTO feedback box – fill a form and place in a box with ideas and suggestions in the Staff room as a way for teachers to provide feedback
- Feedback on Fall Decorations – Teachers and Students loved the decorated cafeteria and hallways. Consider doing something similar for other holidays.