

**New Emerson Elementary
PTO Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2019**

In attendance: Jamie Lewis, Jayelle Dolan, Mindy Rollins, Miriam Rodriguez, Kayla Osborn, Stacey Kristy, Cyleene Gollob, Terry Schmalz, Miranda Bailey, Molly Moyer

Meeting called to order at 3:48 PM

- Welcome
- GJ Community Center Campaign Presentation
 - Andrea brought a slideshow to give information about the proposed Grand Junction community center. Some of the highlights were:
 - Not just to be a building, but a place to connect socially, work on health and wellness.
 - This has been a “ground up” sort of grassroots movement that has happened over a long period of time.
 - A feasibility survey was given to community members and the results were taken into consideration for the proposed facility.
 - Matchett park is 210 acres total; the first phase of development that the taxpayers will vote on is going to be 95 acres. To compare, Canyon view is at about 120 acres. There will be room to continue to phase in additions to the park, but these will be funded by grants and private donors. They don’t want to come to the taxpayers again after this initial phase.
 - Cost: there is a proposed tax increase on sales of .39%, or 39 cents per \$100.00. The tax will continue indefinitely. The funding will be earmarked for community center plan only. This tax will cover building costs as well as long term maintenance.
 - She reviewed economic and social/emotional benefits to the community that are expected with the passing of this project.
 - Vote is happening now and ballots are due by April 2nd.
- Accountability Report - Terry
 - Terry spent all day getting tests ready. Testing season will begin right after spring break, April 2nd.
- Budget - Miranda for Kathy
 - Teacher focus funds: \$694 has been spent for the year, and it’s low compared to previous years. If teachers want to start spending more, go ahead!
 - \$275 for the 501c3 submission that Kayla did.
 - We got our check from the Noodles fundraiser for \$378.98 and a \$25 personal donation.
 - Current balance is \$11,473.51.
- Yoga mats - Molly
 - If yoga continues to be consistent with 40-ish kids, could we possibly get about 10 extra mats for kids who aren’t able to bring a mat? She found some on amazon that sell 10 mats for \$89. She didn’t need them this year, necessarily, but the group said she should go ahead.
 - Mindy made a motion, Jayelle seconded, and everyone voted in favor to pay the \$89 for yoga mats.
- School Store Fundraiser - Stacey

- The prizes have been distributed to all of the kids who earned them. This has been more successful than we ever imagined!
- We have a total of over \$500 in cash that we can request at any time to be sent to us in a check.
- \$12,790 total in gift cards that can only be spent on CaringforClassrooms.org. They come in \$5 increments.
- We have discussed what to do with this fundraising money.
 - Compile all gift cards into one account and have Cherie manage that and designate a certain budget for the teachers and specials, OR split up the gift cards and distribute them and have the teachers use them at their discretion and be in charge
- Cherie said either way would be fine, but she feels like at the end of the year when she sends out a master “wishlist” for supplies, instead of going to Wal-Mart to purchase all the items on the wishlist, we could order these things from CaringforClassrooms.org and save our precious school money.
 - Should we let the teachers get their own favorite supplies from the website, and then whatever they can’t find on there, give a list of those items to Cherie and then she can go shopping for them for the next school year?
- Molly said that any system you decide on, we will appreciate and we will work with it. She said that Stacey may be giving us too many options. After all, it’s free money. We aren’t going to complain.
- Kayla and Miranda said it should be put into all one account, rather than divvied up into a bunch of separate accounts. Mindy said maybe we should give all the teachers access to the one account on the website.
- Cherie said that this is going to save so much PTO money! These requests come in at random times throughout the year, and she will pull the money from the PTO account. Now when we can order with these gift cards, this will relieve the strain on PTO budget.
- There was a discussion about supply fees, brought up by a question from Jayelle about whether these school store dollars can be spent on more specialized equipment or supplies like flex seating for classrooms, and if we need more of those simple supplies like paper and pencils and glue sticks, could we raise the supply fee? Terry and Cherie said that we don’t have the freedom to increase our school supply fee above \$40, but there will be some add-ons to the letters parents get when they register their children, such as “please bring \$40 and a ream of paper and pack of glue sticks”.
- The consensus seems to be put all the money in a single account, and split it equally among the classroom teachers as well as art, libratory, music, and front office.
 - Jayelle said let’s do \$40 x 140 kids that goes into a lump account for school supplies that Cherie will be in charge of the spending of this money. The rest computes to about \$711 per teacher, split equally among classroom teachers as well as art, music, and libratory.
 - Cy made a motion and Miriam seconded, all voted in favor to go with this plan proposed by Jayelle.

- **Electronic check-in system - Cherie**

- Cherie came from working at a middle school that used an electronic check-in system instead of the rudimentary paper and pencil sign-in/sign-out.
- The system can do a lot of great things: alerts office staff if a person should not be on campus (i.e. custody issues), prints off a name badge label for visitors, electronically tracks when people and kids arrive and leave. The ballpark cost of this system would be \$1500-\$2000. Comes with a monitor, a drivers license scanner to alert the staff to sexual predators. Since we are a STEAM school, wouldn’t it be nice to present that technology at the front door of our school? The first thing that greets them is that technology. A lot of the high schools and middle schools in the district use similar systems.
- Terry recommended that Cherie do some more research to make sure it is compatible with the school district’s systems and their computers.

- Cy recommended that Cherie move forward with a more formal research, a quote, etc. and then come to PTO when it is time to distribute funds and we will take it to a vote. But she doesn't see anything negative with this idea. She imagines that nobody would be against making this upgrade, so go ahead and move forward on getting us more specific information.
- **501-c3 Status - Kayla**
 - I got a letter from the IRS that asked for more information. We may need more signatures. They also asked for details like how the funds will be used, and there are ways to work around giving them all of this detailed information. They want things that we have already provided.

Next PTO meeting will be on April 11th at 3:45 PM

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jamie Lewis