

Dale Street PTO Meeting

November 10, 2020

Welcome and Introductions: Steve Grenham (Principal), Maureen Dodge (5th grade Co-President), Karen Seitz (4th grade Co-President), Lindsay Rogers (co-Treasurer), Jill Werner (Secretary)

2nd Dale Street PTO meeting of the 2020-21 school year, held virtually via Zoom call.

Principal Update: Steve Grenham

- Things at Dale are going well. Kids have been great with adhering to safety protocols. Compliance around mask wearing has been excellent. Teachers are doing a really nice job supporting the students both inside and outside the classroom.

-The student council members came up with an awesome idea to support small businesses, specifically restaurants, in town. There are 18 restaurants identified in town and each class will align with a restaurant. Each class will create a 2-3 sentence write up to promote business at the local restaurant.

-The Site Council will be meeting on November 17th. The group will be discussing the budget and the school improvement plan.

-The learning inside the classrooms has been awesome and students are really enjoying social and learning opportunities outdoors as well. The weather has been very cooperative so far this year.

-Jill Werner asked about how the PTO could provide support as outdoor time becomes more limited and indoor recess and indoor mask breaks become more frequent? Steve shared that there will be some adjustments when bad weather sets in. Replenishing school equipment or typical indoor games/activities is challenging under the safety guidelines.

Treasurer update: Lindsay Rogers

-Lindsay shared the updated financial reports.

-To paint a picture of how money is being spent, Lindsay specifically shared the typical percentage breakdown of how the PTO plans to spend its money. Typically, 71% goes to student programs, 26% goes to staff and the remaining 3% is for administration. So far this year, we've spent money to support teachers and staff but there has not been a lot of money going towards student programming

-Lindsay encourages the group to think of programs/events/special investments for the students--for example virtual enrichment programs, assemblies, or speakers to fill the void of in-person presentations and field trips that are not happening this year.

-We talked about incentives for kids that we can help provide to teachers. (For example--Ms. MacDonnell had a glow stick day in her class--that is something we'd love to be able to help out with) There is definitely an abundance of prizes from last year's Winter Carnival that didn't happen. We could share those prizes with teachers if they would be useful to them.

-Lindsay asked about Joe Ahern in his new tech support role at Dale Street and whether he qualifies for a Start up Fund. We discussed the Start Up Fund is meant to cover out of pocket teacher expenses. His role doesn't qualify for that but we decided as a PTO we'd like to extend a thank you to him for all the innovative tech support he has put into place to support remote learning this year.

Secretary Report: Jill Werner

-Jill Werner reviewed the process for approving and posting notes from meetings. Going forward, the secretary will send notes to Mr. Grenham as well as the PTO board for review and approval. Then will send ratified notes to Mr. Grenham to be posted on the Dale St. website.

Co-Presidents' Report: Maureen Dodge and Karen Seitz

-Communication Goal: In efforts to build stronger team affiliation between teachers and the PTO, Maureen is planning to prepare a 5 min presentation at the start of the next staff meeting to establish a connection between the teachers and the PTO and to encourage teachers to reach out to the PTO for funding needs, big or small. She will promote grant money availability as well as funding requests for classroom incentives. We would also like to find a way to invite a teacher to visit an upcoming PTO meeting for a 5 minute connection. If the scheduling is problematic, maybe even a video recording

-Boo FUNdraiser: Maureen shared that the Boo Fundraiser was successful- 336 ghosts were sold. Total amount raised was \$2,139.45. She shared that at the Townwide PTO meeting they discussed doing a similar type of fundraiser with yard hearts around Valentine's Day. Details still to be worked out.

-Holiday Luncheon: Mr Grenham will be meeting with Kelly Wysocki to figure out details related to the holiday luncheon for staff. Thanks to the PTO he currently has gift cards to raffle off at these special events. It's been a nice way to show gratitude to the teachers and staff--they've enjoyed these raffles.

-December Appreciation: The Board discussed starting a Letters of Gratitude campaign where parents and students write letters of thanks to classroom teachers. Room parents could help with this role and a letter writing template for students would be helpful.

-Virtual Book Fair: The elementary book fair will be a virtual weeklong event, held by Park Street Books at the end of January. We asked Mr. Grenham if the schools would be interested in having a virtual Literacy Night or Week to accompany the book fair. He will reach out to literacy coordinators to discuss.

-Heroes Under the Mask: this program is being run by MCPE. Families are encouraged to nominate teachers and staff that have been going above and beyond to make this year special for students.

-Dale Street Shopping Night at Park Street Books: Dale Street PTO is helping to organize a shopping night at Park St Books, as a way to help give back to Jim James, for all of his support of the schools over the years. There will be a set number of shoppers allowed--shoppers will need to sign up for a specific time slot. The Dale PTO will run an hourly raffle to thank shoppers for showing up and helping support a small local business.

Next meeting at Dale: January 12th at 9:15 AM via Zoom