

Dale Street PTO Meeting

November 17, 2021

Welcome and Introductions: Steve Grenham (Principal), Karen Seitz (5th grade Co-President), Jessy Nejm (4th grade Co-President), Paula Pacheco (Vice President), Lindsay Rogers (Treasurer), Jill Werner (Secretary), Jodi Bills, Nesse McCabe, Danielle Tata, Cailin Caskey

Co-President Update: Karen Seitz

Karen takes a couple minutes to address the recent failed vote for a new 4th/5th elementary school. She recognizes how hard and sad this is for many in the Dale community, but holds to the mantra "Find the Good." She encourages the board and the Dale community to continue to focus on pulling out all the good that is in this building, and to remember what's most important, the people—both the kids and the staff.

Principal Update: Steve Grenham

-In the wake of the new elementary school being voted down, Mr. Grenham shared that he met with his teachers and staff, most of whom were pretty heartbroken over the results. He shared that, despite their sadness about the outcome, everything at Dale is going to be okay. They discussed "WHY?" they all became educators. The big "why" is the kids, and that will continue to motivate Dale teachers and staff to give their best to their students despite the condition of the building. They also discussed how this outcome may bring about new opportunities. They are remaining hopeful.

-Mr. Grenham shared that there will be meetings to discuss maintenance projects at Dale that have been on hold while awaiting new school plans. The roof repair will be a priority going forward. It is old and leaking in places and will likely need replacement.

-There's good stuff going on in the classrooms at Dale.

-MCPE has approved a \$7300 grant from SEED (Science Engineering Education Development) for 5 hands-on lessons to be taught in person by science educators in each of the 4th grade classrooms. Programming will provide exploratory learning for the students and also some nice lesson modeling for the teachers.

-Grade 5 is using collaborative group teacher time to redefine what Readers Workshop will look like at their grade level.

-The Dale St. Dream Big Marathon was a successful and fun program for the kids, merging exercise, reading, and giving back to others.

-Mr. Ahern, the Dale tech specialist, is collaborating with all classroom teachers and students and bringing engineering to the classrooms

-Ms. Sweeney, the Media Specialist, is working with all teachers and students to support the Explorers unit with activities in the Makerspace

-Afterschool intramurals are up and running for winter.

-Community Service has been a big focus this year and the kids are taking on really meaningful projects—Dale was able to ship 6 boxes to the Boodle Brigade. These gift boxes were shipped overseas to soldiers serving in the US military, with hopes of bringing them holiday cheer.

-Professional Development on the half day focused on standards based report cards. Report cards will now have a more consistent look in K-5.

-On Tuesday, 11/30, the elementary principals will be holding a webinar to educate families on this new approach.

-On Wednesday, 12/8, elementary report cards will be coming home.

-Thursday 12/9, and Tuesday, 12/14, will be conference days, allowing families and teachers to connect and discuss students and their progress in the classroom.

Treasurer Report: Lindsay Rogers

-School supply kit money is coming in.

-Dale's funds are in a good position. Dale currently has more funds than the other elementary schools, which is a big change from how it was a few years back.

-Goal is to find meaningful ways to spend for kids that are here now.

-We are excited to hear about more grants coming from the teachers. Karyn Healey and Ali Abba are helping with this process as they lead our Curriculum/Programming team.

Vice President Report: Paula Pacheco

-There are 35-40 people on our volunteer list.

-Paula will be in charge of a monthly newsletter that the Dale St. PTO will be sharing at the start of each month. It will share highlights of the past month and reminders for upcoming events.

MCPE Update: Danielle Tata

-MCPE held a grant meeting last Tuesday

-The visiting scientists unit grant was funded for Dale St.

- Fall Fest was a great success.
- An upcoming Wreath-Making Event will be held on 12/7/21
- Fall Ball will be back next year–11/5/22

Hospitality Update: Inger Kenworthy and Kelly Scobbo

- Inger and Kelly planned a fall donuts and cider bar for teachers
- There will be grab and go Thanksgiving treats prior to the Thanksgiving holiday break
- Gift card donations will be incorporated into some of the holiday hospitality events.

New Business-Karen Seitz

- Karen shared some ideas to boost teacher morale. Possibility of monthly “We love our teachers” afternoons. Possible ideas- free yoga class, movie afternoon, flower centerpieces, charcuterie board. Goal would be to survey teachers for their input prior to moving forward.
- Also discussed was the idea of finding ways to support some more cosmetic upgrades in the school. To both boost morale and to increase the overall usefulness and purposes of some of the commonly used spaces.

Community Service

- Community Service has been a consistent part of the school year with Mr. Grenham and the student council working with Alice Jreige, our PTO community service leader.
- November theme is Thank You letters–the group encourages families to show gratitude and write thank you letters to members in the school community.
- The December community service project is The Mitten Project where we will partner with Medfield Outreach. The goal is to fill a set of mittens/gloves with lotion, chapstick, candy, and gift cards–a combo of holiday gifts and useful items for a family in need this winter.

Fundraising

- The big fundraising question is what will replace our winter carnival funds?--this is being explored at the Townwide K-8 PTO level.
- Possibility of school specific fun runs or walkathons in the spring or possibly a community-wide fundraising initiative for the schools
- Medfield Spirit Wear continues to stay open. People should be mindful of shipping times if planning to order for holidays.

-There are lots of games/toys/fidgets leftover and being stored from the Winter Carnival that never happened in 2020. Should they be used for a holiday sale or a fun spin-the-wheel fundraiser at some point?

Programming

-We would love to bring back the 5th Grade Talent Show—it used to be run by 5th Grade Teacher Mike Mason, then Meg Cabezud helped the PTO run it. Looking for someone to take the lead on this.

-Karyn Healey and Ali Abba, in collaboration with teachers and Park Street Books are running a book initiative to help update classroom libraries across the 4th and 5th grade classrooms. They have compiled a list of teacher-selected “mentor texts” as well as other wish list items.

-There will be a Sip and Shop event at Park St. Books on Wednesday, 12/8, in the evening. Families can do holiday shopping and can also help support the book initiative for the classrooms.

PTO Grant Requests:

-The board voted to approve Mairi Nawrocki’s grant for a portable speaker system to be used inside and outside for PE as well as other whole school programs.

-The board voted to approve a \$260 grant used to cover Dale St. Marathon expenses, specifically popsicles for all students and a custom bookmark.

-The board voted to approve \$2,200 grant for the Freedom Trail 5th Grade Field Trip, submitted by Mrs. Condon. This field trip will be the follow up to learning about the American Revolution.

-Fourth Grade is working to figure out their field trip.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 @ 9:45 AM