

Dale Street PTO Meeting

September 22, 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)-(tuned in via phone), Jill Werner (Secretary), Inger Kenworthy, Kelly Scobbo, Jodi Bills, Nesse McCabe, Patty Bird, Jennifer Sroka, Jessica Griffin, Ali Pensic, Alexis Hill

1st Dale St. PTO meeting of the 2021-22 school year, held in person. Karen Seitz welcomes everyone back and the group shares introductions

MCPE Update: Jessy Nejm

-Upcoming events include the Fall Fest which will be held 11/5 at the German Club. There will also be a Wreath-Making Workshop to be held on 12/6.

-No grants have been submitted or reviewed yet this year.

Principal's Update: Steve Grenham

-It's been a good and busy start to the school year.

-Kids are happy to be back in the classrooms. They have been great about mask-wearing.

-Mr. Grenham welcomes new office staff: Anne Gilberti and Lynne Malmquist who are the new Dale St. secretaries.

-School PINs (Parent Information Nights) will be virtual again this year. PIN info will be coming out the week of 9/22

-Lunch is a little different this year--there are 3 lunch blocks that include 6 classes each. 3 classes eat in the cafeteria, other 3 eat in the gymnasium. The groups alternate their location.

-Specials are running each day. Unique to Dale is the WIN "What I Need" Block. This allows students to attend their music lessons without missing class lessons during the day. Other students, not participating in music lessons at that time, can work on getting caught up in the classroom.

-Dale St. School's media specialist, Marena Sweeney, has revamped a Makerspace/Engineering space in the library. Marena and classroom teachers will collaborate on lessons that incorporate student exploration and usage of this neat space.

-MCAS scores are coming in. Schools are notified first, parent reports come out a little bit later. Keep an eye out for a Principal Coffee where Mr. Grenham will be available to answer questions about the MCAS.

-Steve addresses incorrect rumors about the reasoning behind the new modular at Dale. Behind the stage in the auditorium/gym is a smaller classroom space that has historically been used for band lessons and Mandarin classes. This part of the building has a flat roof. This summer, there were leaks discovered in this space. Repairs are scheduled to happen but there are delays. The learning space is needed, so it was decided to bring in a modular to support the Mandarin learning and band lessons.

-For those that are unfamiliar with the Dale Space, there are modulars on the other side of the building off of the library. These include a couple classrooms. These modulars are 20 years old!

-As a wrap up to this discussion of physical space at the school, Mr. Grenham shared that there is wonderful learning going on in the current building, but he and his staff strongly believe that the Wheelock location best fits the educational plan that was developed by the district and submitted to the MSBA. He is happy to provide any information and/or answer any questions families have around the plans for the new 4th-5th grade school.

Hospitality Update: Inger Kenworthy and Kelly Scobbo

-Inger and Kelly planned a cold drink station for teachers on the first Wednesday of school. They were able to get coffee and tea donated by Starbucks

-The plan is to have more touch points across the year rather than bigger expensive, singular events.

-Some tentative timing/themes- Halloween/cider, December- Cutlets luncheon (modeled after last year's), Valentine's, March/April, Teacher Appreciation Week, and End of Year.

-Discussion about how and when to ask for donations from families to support some of these events (Holidays and end-of-year could be best suited for this type of ask)

Treasurer Report: Lindsay Rogers

-Lindsay tuned in over the phone---she shared financial reports, approved budget of \$25,830. Minimal expenses incurred at this point.

-Start up funds will be distributed soon. \$50/specialist, \$100/teacher

-Potential grant giving goal of \$10,000 this year--broaden and deepen what we can do at Dale

New Business-Karen Seitz

-New Coordinator roles have been established for 2021-2022:

Community Service- Alice Jreige will bring community service ideas to the school (will also be liaison to student council)

Fundraising- Jodi Bills, K-5 Fundraisers that benefit all the grades, how to make up for Loss of Winter Carnival funds, Great time for new ideas.

Programming- Ali Abba and Karyn Healey-will look to find enrichment opportunities and programming to share both in-house and outside the school

Room Parent Update: Nesse McCabe

-We are in good shape with room parents. At the time of this meeting, need 1 more for Nee and Condon.

-Grade level coordinators are Amy Catalano for 4th Grade, and Mary MacInnes for 5th Grade

-Goal for distributing directories for classes is late Sept/early Oct.

Fall Fundraising Efforts:

Booing Ghosts- Jill Werner: This fundraiser is launching right now. The K-5 PTO teams are hoping to sell 720 lawn ghosts for \$15 each. Total money collected will be split between the 3 elementary schools. Initial sales are looking good. Pickup times will be happening over the next few weeks at all 3 elementary schools. We hope as more ghosts appear around town, more purchasing will continue.

-Kids' Night Out- TBD? Typically would occur on 2 separate Fridays, one for each grade. Night includes a DJ, raffles, games, and parent volunteers. On hold for right now. Michelle Barrette, a 5th grade mom, has successfully run these nights in the past and is on board to help. Discussion about coming up with comparable types of programming that could be held outside.

-Replenish Teacher gift cards: Mr. Grenham holds gift card raffles at some of the faculty meetings. Also uses them as gifts for extra thanks or extra intense work stretches. There is a line item in the budget for this.

Fall School Spirit Efforts:

-Dale St. Dream Big Marathon--Jill Werner: The PTO would like to join forces with the PE teachers to help Dale St. celebrate the Boston Marathon by holding a celebratory running event on the Dale St. school grounds. Kids will wear Medfield or Boston spiritwear, they will run laps on a course decorated with Boston Marathon signage, there will be pump up music playing, and they will get a popsicle at the end. In addition to the running portion of the program, we'd like to encourage kids to complete reading and kindness goals as well.

-Door Decorating contests-Karen Seitz: this was a big success in the spring. Group discusses the timing of when to hold these contests. Planning for Winter and Spring

-Pumpkins- Steve Grenham: Mr. Grenham is looking to do a team-building pumpkin activity with staff in October. Decorated pumpkins will be put on display in the classrooms. Will likely be asking for PTO funding for this.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17 @ 9:45 AM