

Devon Elementary PTO
Meeting Minutes—September 7th, 2016

Attendees: Dr. Todd Parker, Tracy Przybylowski, Kelly Myers, Raquel Murphy, Kara McMahon, Marci Popielarski, Vasavi Marabathula, Amanda Wollick, Nikole Salata, Spencer Rhodes, Michele Seeger, Shweta Sivaraman, Wendy Cook, Beth Hixson, Beth Fogarty, Kate Miller

Principal's Update - Dr. Parker

- Devon has 584 students this year: 5 K classes, 6 1st grade classes, 6 2nd grade classes, 5 3rd grade classes, 5 4th grade classes
- PTO gifts were very well received. The teachers especially liked the water bottle stations. Other gifts were the buddy bench and Kindergarten basketball hoop
- Melinda Strinzak - 4th grade teacher - wants to pilot “Storyworks” from scholastic as a writing program. Not budgeted for this year, but would like to see if we could roll it out in some manner (minutes from this conversation documented below)

President's Report – Tracy Pzybylowski

- Thank you to Claire Kennedy who set up refreshments for New Family Orientation.
- Thank you to Lauren Forman and Becky Caldwell for chairing the Welcome Back Social.
- Paoli Wildcats Basketball registration is coming up. You don't have to camp out overnight to register anymore, as it is all done online.
- The PTO still needs Co-Chairs for the Auction. Raquel Murphy agreed to chair again, but we need a few co-chairs to support her. We also need chairs for the Green Initiative and 4th Grade Yearbook.
- Upcoming PTO Events - Gift wrap, Health Screenings, Picture Day - requests for volunteers will come through Volunteer Spot
- Thank you to Jen Gallagher for leading the 1st Grade Cafeteria Transition
- Devon Diversity and Inclusion Initiative - the committee is looking for Devon Buddies to help new families transition into the Devon community. They are also looking for Cultural Advisors from different cultural backgrounds that will communicate with the PTO

New Business - Mrs. Melinda Sterenczak spoke on behalf of the 4th grade teachers about the Storyworks pilot.

- Story works is a bi-monthly magazine, geared towards 4th - 6th graders, that includes fiction and non-fiction, parrot texts, current events. For developing readers, you can level the text online so everyone can read the same article at a different level or the article can be read to the child online. Online access may be available to parents as well
- Current reading series, Time for Kids, isn't updated ever year and therefore doesn't include current events
- Would like to pilot this program to see how kids respond and how it could be used in our school. Would like to funnel funds away from Time for Kids and towards Story Works. \$7.49 per student which is twice as much as Time for Kids
- Beaumont uses this currently
- Asking to pilot this for this year and, if it is successful, budget the program for next year
- Cathy Rains confirmed that we have the funds to do the pilot
- Tracy P motioned to approve, Kate Miller seconded, PTO approved 110 copies of StoryWorks for this year

Vice President's Report – Kelly Myers and Raquel Murphy

- Got a Minute Forms will be emailed to all grades on the evening of their curriculum night.
- If you are a VP of an event, email Kelly or Raquel to find out who volunteered for your event through the Got-a-Minute Form

Treasurer's Report—Cathy Rains

- We currently have approximately \$124,500 cash on hand.
- Notable receipts/expenses since June 1, 2016...
 - Cultural Arts:
 1. Deposit paid to Franklin Institute for 1st grade assembly and the total fee (\$1,750) for the ComedySportz show.
 2. We received the \$500 TESD grant.
 - Passive Fundraisers (These are fundraisers Devon PTO benefits from people's routine purchases when they designate Devon PTO as the recipient.):

1. We received the \$75.71 earned through the AmazonSmile program (this is the total we earned since the inception, so it covers a long period of time - at least a couple of years). We earned 0.5% of Amazon purchases when people designate Devon PTO as their charity.
 2. We received \$600.40 from the “Nickels for Non-Profits” program at Whole Foods.
- Parent Social: Paid \$500 deposit to reserve Hilltop House for April 1 event.
 - Directory Ad Sales: Received \$1,915 so far — Kim Sylvester is supposed to drop off another deposit. She didn’t give the total amount but did say she has another 4 checks outstanding (after this drop off).
 - Teacher Supplies: Wrote checks to all teachers to help with classroom supplies (\$75 each).
 - Gift to School: Paid approximately \$1,000 for the Buddy Bench (this includes both the bench and sign). Awaiting invoices TESD for the basketball hoop and water fountains.

Communications Report – Wendy Cook

- Dispatch Schedule – First publication set for Sept. 9th, 2016
- Send blast requests in Word format so Wendy doesn’t have to spend a lot of time editing
- Email blasts that are coming soon with requests for volunteers: Wrapping paper, Health Screenings (needs to go out on 9/8) and Picture Day
- Blasts should go out one week in advance. If you are short on volunteers, Wendy will send out a reminder blast

Cultural Arts—Carrie Cotton & Meg Taft

- Visiting author, Kwame Alexander, is coming on 10/25. Book order forms will be sent home soon
- Reach out to Meg or Carrie if you would like to volunteer for any of the assemblies
- Cultural arts calendar is set for the year with the exception of Art Goes to School

Fundraising— Kara McMahon

- Wrapping paper (Kate Farabaugh): Packets didn't arrive in time for K, 1&2 Curriculum nights. Can start ordering online now...closes 10/14. Orders can be shipped to Devon or to your house for an additional fee.
- Handels Spirit Day – Need to confirm Date with Handels (Diane Hoey). Set for 4/19 right now, but we may push it back to 4/26
- Need Parent Social and Auction Chair – Date Set for April 1st

Social Functions—Lisa Schreiber

- New Program - Devon Diversity Inclusion Initiative. The group met over the summer to brainstorm what the committee might look like and why it is important. They are going to distribute information about the DDIC on curriculum nights. Looking for cultural advisors and “dragon buddies” to welcome new families to Devon
- The event formerly known as Pizza Bingo is going to turn into a Cultural Fair. The date is 3/24. Kids will get passports that they can get stamped as they visit different areas. Food will be available that represents the different cultures. Still an event that is work in progress.
- Need 4th Grade Yearbook Chair

Issues Affairs and Programs— Jen Gallagher

- Interschool Council Meeting (Tricia Jennings) will be on September 21, 2106 – Topics will be Testing updates, 2017-18 calendar, 1:1 Initiative update. District looking at a Learning Management program that teachers, parents and students can access to see grades, etc.

School Services—Kate Miller

- Health Screenings – Sept 15th and 16th (Lindsey Wisch). Blast for volunteers will be sent soon.
- Picture Day – Sept 19th (Shweta Sivaraman). Blast for volunteers will be sent soon.
- Devon Directory - all going great, work in process. A flyer is going home in the Friday folder that will provide an email address that you can use to email any directory updates. Otherwise, all directory info will carry forward into the new directory.

Other Business:

- Question from Gabby Snyder about moving back-to-school paperwork online. Forms that are sent home in the first day packet should be

available online to reduce waste. Dr. Parker said that Devon is working on getting rid of the redundancy.

- Question about busing for ACP kids. Dr. Parker said the alternative bus arrangement is not guaranteed. Kids coming from the middle school on the shuttle makes it hard to predict how many kids will be on the bus at the end of the day and does not guarantee that a Kindergartner can take the bus home from ACP.
- There will be a meeting with T&E Cares on the 16th to see if they will be involved in the Fall Festival.
- After school clubs will be held Oct. 10 - Nov. 11