**Thornell Road PTSA Meeting**

**Tuesday October 12, 2021**

**Colleen Emmons, Virginia Brown, Roger DeBell, Kelly Pearson, Andrea True, Liz Ruder, Emily Waller, Ivana Nadler, Kristen Bergholtz, Kylie DeGrave, Sadie Szrama, Teague Ruder, Thari Thavakumar-Slavin, Rachel Nichols**

**Back to School Picnic-** Looking for feedback on how everything went. One of the biggest challenges was finding volunteers. Would be a good idea to get volunteers on board in the spring before school gets out. Did that but was not specific about event then those volunteers were not available for the night of the picnic. Thankful for the custodians who were super helpful on the night of the event setting up and breaking down tables/chairs etc…

We should use the PTSA website more for sharing signups, keep pointing people to look at that.

**Bus Driver shortage-** Still an issue but a little better and routes going okay kids may just be on the bus a little longer than would be typical.

**Super Sale Trail-** the sale is this Saturday Oct. 16th there are 10 locations throughout town. Information is on the Super Sale Facebook Page and the PTSA Website.

**Halloween-** The parade will be Friday Oct 29 more details to come. Parents will be allowed to come and spectate only if the parade is able to be outside. It will also kick off monthly Spirit Days with Costumes and Orange Day.

**Book Fair-** Novemner 1st-4th is the bookfair. All ordering will be online but students will be able to visit the bookfair with their classes. There was some confusion of how this will work we are looking for clarification if students will be able to purchase book in person with Scholastic ewallet.

**Budget-** The budget was approved for the 2021-2022 school year. The approved budget will be on the website.

Thank you to Teague and Liz Ruder for being treasurers for the past couple years. New treasurer is Kristy Hopfinger she will be training this month.

For the next year's budget, they want to add a Light the Loop line. Sadie: Can we use the cultural arts budget for DE&I activities? Some of the Cultural Arts budget is provided by BOCES, didn’t use much last year of the additional funds provided by PTSA. If we do not use the money alloted but BOCES it will be reduced so it is important to find programs that will use up that money. Last year we were able to have Joe Crookston for the 3rd graders hoping to have him return again in person. The line items on the budget are set by the district, we can’t change those, but we have some wiggle room to use some of Cultural Arts money if it is needed for DE&I. Adding DE&I as a line will have to be made on the district level. We should get the new template for the budget to get a DE&I line, apparently it is on other schools in the districts budget.

**Committees:**

**ASEP** - Ivana - We have chess club, Yoga, and Art club starting this fall. Thanks to the coordinators, Kristin Bergholtz and Serenity Della Porta. Thanks also to Mr. DeBell for all his help with space and announcements, Geoff Silkey, the webmaster, and Andrea who is talking to Drama Kids about the spring session.

Colleen is thinking about a series of enrichment activities that are one time only different activities, to be coming in spring.

**Membership**- Thari - - we are #8 for parents/families (near the bottom), #3 for faculty sign up. We have 78 families signed up. Colleen set a goal at 125 families. Reaching out on a personal level might help. Membership drive is going to be a long term drive, flyer is going out about that and directory.

**Yearbook** Gina - - We need to do the cover contest. Theme - kids or PTSA pick a theme? The theme is always something to do with stars. The 2022 picture from the roof is already done! If you happen to take pictures, you can upload that via yearbook snap (info on that via flyer/facebook)

**Square1Art** Gina –, will still need to follow up for the Spring with Mrs. Lubbers. Holiday shop is happening during the week of Hanukkah. When good stuff goes, we can resupply mid week. Kids buying for Hanukkah can shop early, possibly. The challenge is that this is the week of half days (for parent teacher conferences). Solutions to be determined.

**DE&I** Sadie and Emily - - Want to do the bookclub for this year. The date hasn’t been picked yet, or the book. Considering the book We are not like them, it’s new and a little more expensive, but a good discussion book (black and white perspective on a shooting).

Recommendations on hispanic book to be coming. They are working with DE&I people across the district.

Sign language enrichment is something we are looking into. Will need an instructor with insurance or a volunteer. We could consider working with Mrs. Autovino to purchase library books that allign with different months like Hispanic Awareness, Black History Month etc…

**Teacher appreciation** - did a breakfast last month, this month something small would be nice. Coffee or Halloween candy, for the 29th. Laura Pullum has volunteered to help with teacher appreciation.

**Spirit Wear-** Kristin Bergholtz- shirts are ordered just waiting for them to be delivered. New logo for the spring.

**Spirit Days**- will start in October with Halloween and will be once a month.

Email coming out today about Happy Birthday ChaChaCha partnering with book fair. Currently PDTA is collecting socks for Socktober.

**eNews - Andrea** - people need to subscribe to them, figure out how they can get that information. Also, can’t post on the Thornell Road PTSA facebook page. When people join the membership, they get added to the specific eNews.

**Light the loop** sign up going out today. Looking for volunteers to help set up, clean out, and decorations. It’s going to be drive-through, because it will be weather independent, can visit other buildings. Other buildings didn’t want the little kids walking at night.

PTSA pumpkins for the classrooms - every classroom can be included to the Light the loop. The teachers couldn’t figure out how to make that happen. We are not doing that.

Next Monday (18th) is a **PTSA parent workshop**. Not a meeting, connection at night to see what people are interested in. (this has been postponed due to a conflict)

**Rachel Nichols - Science Action** reached out to grade level teachers K-3, heard from them back and has fun lessons planned.