



Middleton PTO General Minutes

Oct. 8, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. - Middleton Elementary Media Center

Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes from Sept. 10, 2024 PTO General Meeting were distributed
- b. Lavinia Finnerty moved to approve minutes
 - i. Kyle Koisti seconded the motion
 - ii. All in favor said, "aye" (no attendees opposed the motion)

3. Celebrations

- a. Walk & Roll to School Day was a success
- b. Walkathon event was fun despite the heat
 - i. Feedback: DJs were great and Mrs. Van Vooren's choreographed "September" song was a highlight

4. Walkathon

- a. Total amount raised: \$19,368 with 269 students participating
- b. 1st Place: first grade; 2nd Place: fourth grade; 3rd Place: fifth grade
- c. School-wide Pajama Day (reward for raising \$10k) will be on Tuesday, Oct. 15
- d. Stripe platform saved approx. \$2,300 in fees PTO would have had to pay with FundHub
- e. Noted feedback: using Stripe, students unable to track individual fundraising progress or donors
- f. Slightly less money raised compared to last year, but enrollment is also lower
- g. Discussed possible explanations for lower participation rate, including:
 - i. Shorter donation window (just two weeks this year)
 - ii. Kickoff occurred on a Monday vs. a Thursday or Friday which would have aligned with weekly classroom-update emails and Mustang News
 - iii. Time of year may have been a factor (busy time with lots of expenses)
- h. Feedback that communication from PTO was good and students loved the trackers displayed in the Commons
- i. General discussion about a main fundraising event:
 - i. Suggestion to look at what other schools in the district do
 - ii. Feedback that a walkathon can be a confusing concept for some
 - iii. May need to revisit incentivising students with individual rewards, while continuing to be considerate of all students
 - iv. Suggestion to move event to later in the year, but discussed that:
 1. Difficult to find time that doesn't conflict with other events
 2. Weather is a factor for an outdoor event
 3. September timeframe is significant in terms of budget/being able to fund planned initiatives for the year

- v. Suggestion to establish a fall fundraising planning committee in the spring so things are ready-to-go at start of next school year

5. Budget

- a. Given Walkathon results, now projecting at \$3,000-4,000 deficit (numbers still being run)
- b. Donations for first Feed-the-Teachers events of the year have been positive
- c. Ticket sales for Middleton Family Night Timberwolves Game were impressive
- d. Board will look at areas to make adjustments and continue to share budget/expense updates

6. Community

- a. Volunteer Opportunities
 - i. Book Fair: need help, especially with setting up
 - ii. Feed the Teachers: options remain for helping with conference meals
 - iii. Lunchroom Helpers: lots of slots available
- b. Next Culver's Night: Monday, Oct. 14, hosted by Specialists

7. Admin Updates

- a. October is "Kindness Month" at Middleton
 - i. Kindness in Chalk Day was Oct. 7: lots of wonderful kind messages and affirmations displayed
 - ii. Working on "Stay Kind" canvas that features student names
- b. Indigenous Peoples' Day is Monday, Oct. 14: resources have been shared with teachers to honor and celebrate this day with students
- c. No school on Oct. 16 (comp day for Assessment Days)
- d. Middleton will celebrate National Unity Day on Oct. 31: wear orange
- e. Info to come soon about first Student Council-hosted BINGO Night

8. Open Discussion

- a. Trisha Pohl requested PTO support for Ashland Productions' ACT! Program
 - i. Ashland has offered to cover program fee with a grant; families would be responsible for student participation fee
 - ii. Trisha offered to be the program coordinator for Middleton
 - iii. Mrs. Downs discussed how building space must be reserved through Community Ed, while taking into account other scheduled activities like LEGO League and Middleton Choir practice
 - iv. Briefly discussed past PTO involvement in this theater program (i.e., coordination and funding)
 - 1. Current budget would not allow for financial support for any costs not covered by grant
 - 2. Board members shared intent to approach this program in a manner consistent with support for other extracurriculars (e.g., Souting, Girl Scouts, LEGO League, etc.)
 - a. PTO to provide support from a community-building perspective (e.g., promoting in Facebook group, etc.), but otherwise would not be directly involved
 - v. Trisha will move forward by working with Community Ed, Mrs. Downs and Ashland to determine feasibility