

General PTA Meeting Notes – 11-15- 2023

Around 28 attendees

Started at 7:04 pm

- Established new rule in General PTA meetings – all participants should list their name with the grade and teacher

Brian Craine started the meeting –

Principal Update

- Lots of great activities going on – thanks to PTA for recent author assembly – very well received and enriching
- Trunk or Treat was a great turnout and planning went above and beyond – thank you for all the planning
- Ruby Bridges Day yesterday – sweet event where students walked around the block and had posters about Ruby Bridges and her legacy and bravery – even Superintendent Moore was there – looking to spread to all the elementary schools
- Looking forward to Diwali event this Friday – kids brought home an art project today
- Big thanks to Becky and Holly for detailed attention to ASP program, and Mrs. Brady – it's been great so far and looking forward to additions in the Spring
- Question was brought up about Pre-K funding and how it will fit into St. Cloud – Mr. Price doesn't have enough info to share yet

Secretary and Treasurer's Report

- Jess moved to approve October minutes
- Brian seconded
- Approved by quorum
- Going forward, minutes will be posted on stcloudpta.com

Presidents Update

- A/C units donated by PTA are continuing to get installed. Building and Grounds working on several updates to building
- Trunk or Treat was very fun – had over 200 participants
- Potential School Ideas for improvements
 - Adjustable Basketball Hoop
 - Sensory Tools
 - Courtyard
 - New EZ Up Tent
 - Updated Teacher Wish Lists
 - Expanded Field Day
 - New Desks and Chair for Front Office staff
 - Suggestions today
 - White Board markers

- Mobile PA system or battery PA (for things like Ruby Bridges Day)
- Class Parents
 - All have been notified and started working with teachers
 - In future meetings, will have some engagement from class parents
 - May have a new board position for Teacher Liaison and support class parent process
- Jersey Cares Coat Drive will be available November 27-December 15
 - Can donate online or
 - Donate new coat at school
 - More details coming soon

Ways & Means

2 big events coming up

- Scholastic Book Fair – November 28 (9 am to 3 pm) to December 1 and at Holiday Bazaar on Dec 3
 - Book Fair hours will be extended for parents to come during pickup – 3:15 to 4:00
 - Only way to pay is through eWallet – parents should set up accounts before November 28
 - Will need volunteers
 - Set up bookfair – probably on Monday 11/20 – let Zohre know if able to help
 - See social media post for volunteering
 - Will post schedules for classes to attend so parents can volunteer to work the fair during school
 - Volunteer for Pick up time coverage
 - Volunteers at Holiday Bazaar
 - Sign up genius will come out soon – also have Class Parents communicate
- Holiday Bazaar – December 3
 - Build a Bear Workshop
 - Around 30 Vendors
 - Food to buy
 - Book Fair open that day – 11 am to 3 pm
 - Need volunteers
 - Zohre also reaching out to WOHS volunteer group to help
 - Help at Book Fair during Bazaar
 - Sign up genius will come out soon
- January 19 – Family Skate Night 6:30 to 8 pm
- February – St. Cloud Stars
- April – Jaguar Jog

Diversity Council

- Meeting Summary from 11/1 –
 - This is a safe space and members often bring up their own experiences
 - Example of families feeling impacted by pain in the world
 - As parents, our role is to help our kids process pain and have
 - In PTA and Diversity council, want to connect with school to help students process big feelings and events
- Looking at several roundtable events and opportunities for healing
- Big thanks to Ernestine John for leading the Ruby Bridges event and special thanks to Sonya Martin for starting it last year

- Diwali
 - Students doing an art project for Rangoli
 - Students received clay to make Diyas in classroom to bring to assembly
 - Assembly on Friday – Bollywood dance, interactive play
 - Also Indian sweets for the teachers
 - Books donated to the library
- Next meeting is November 29 and then no meeting in December
- January/February – Lunar New Year and BLM at School Week (Feb 5-9)

After School Program

- In the last 2 weeks of this program – has gone very well
- Reviewing ways to expand the program to offer more sessions and classes in the Spring
- Spring program details will come out around late February

5th Grade committee

- Double Good Popcorn – raised close to \$1700 which is lower than previous year – this fundraiser has gotten very popular and market may have been saturated
- Trunk or Treat – pumpkin sale for kids to purchase and decorate – raised \$229
- Family Take Out nights coming up
 - Panera
 - Chipotle
- Would like to do a fundraiser at Holiday Bazaar
- Holiday plant sale for fundraiser in December
- Yearbook planning is underway – parents send more photos to committee
- Field Trip to Theatre Works
- Connecting with Spiritwear
- 5th grade Game Night with Mr. Franck
- Graduation Party – teachers recommended returning to PowerHouse studios – committee working on details
- 5th grade committee meets 2nd Monday of each month
- Always open to suggestions

Spirit Wear

- Spiritwear store is currently closed (allows for bulk shipping)
- Will re-open again around Spring
- 43 orders still in process
- Dania brought up the possibility of having custom 5th grade shirt – maybe an artwork contest

Cultural Arts

- Author Assembly – Jay Miletsky – PTA purchased books and donated to library and each classroom
- Jennifer Jones author assembly coming in December – date being finalized

Membership

- 149 members
- Minimum responsibility and massive perks
- Skate rental will be free on January 19 for PTA members – tell your friends
- Can also donate directly to PTA store
- Suggestion of having PTA membership part of Black Friday or Cyber Monday or Giving Tuesday – Communications to connect with Membership on ideas

Communications

- Sabrina asked members if communications are getting heard – regular emails, posting on board at blacktop, social media posts at least weekly, and Wednesday folder
- Twanisha asked about options to get flyers printed for classrooms for important 5th grade items (field trip, graduation, yearbook)
 - Brian explained that the district wants to be paperless
 - Mr. Price said he can work with 5th grade committee for special distribution

Mark your calendar for the December 13 meeting

- Special Guest will be Ms. Berg, Math Supervisor for K-5 curriculum to discuss iReady curriculum and how families can support their kids
- A survey will go out to solicit questions from parents