

Garrisonville Elementary PTO
General Membership
Meeting Agenda 9/12/2023



Call to order at 5:32 pm by Asheli Polychrones (PTO President)

Welcome- Asheli Polychrones (PTO President)

Please let us know if you aren't receiving emails from GES PTO. We want to make sure you are getting all the information about upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities.

Pledge of Allegiance- Kathryn Pendleton (PTO Secretary)

Budget Updates- Jessica Meade (PTO Treasurer)

Thank you for voting on the proposed budget. The budget was approved. We did a great job with Gator gear sales, and our membership numbers rose. The Panda Express spirit night brought in \$182.60 for our school, and the Wadder's Ice truck brought in \$144 for the school.

Boosterthon

Income- We reached our goal and even went above. Our goal was to raise \$35,000 and we raised about \$36,000. Thank you everyone!

Corporate Emails- These donations were matched, so if your corporation donated, please check your emails to complete the final steps so we get these donations.

Feedback received- We will make sure we have a bigger track next year for the Fun Run. We received feedback about the color run, and we will make sure to be more clear next year about who gets to throw color on the Gators as they're running. Some people mentioned that students were unhappy about not receiving prizes. As long as students are registered they will get a prize. All students receive a free t-shirt.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Fall picture day- October 11. We have plenty of volunteers, so if you're volunteering, you've already been contacted. Thank you!
- After School Enrichment (ASE)- One day a week for four weeks (beginning October 18), teachers or community members teach our Gators about different topics after school. If you would be interested in teaching a class, or know someone in the community that might be interested, please contact Ms. Leonard. On the Gator Gram there will be a link to sign up to be an instructor. The instructors are paid \$40 an hour. We do ASE once during the Fall, and once again in the Spring.

- Outdoor Movie Night- Please vote by September 22 on which movie we will be watching. There is a survey in the Gator Gram to vote on the movie. There will be three different food trucks available that night. A sign up genius will be sent out soon for volunteers. The rain date of October 20th that is on the calendar will not stay on the calendar because AG Wright has their fall play that night. We need lots of volunteers to monitor bathrooms, and be stationed outside at various places on the sidewalk. Volunteer slots will be for thirty minutes so you can still enjoy the movie with your family. We have four confirmed food vendors for that evening, and three of them (waiting to hear back from the fourth) will donate profits back to the school.
- Trunk or Treat- We are hosting this event after school from 6:00-8:00 pm. We will have about twenty spots available for people to display their trunks. If you would like to decorate your trunk, we will be sending out a sign up. We are hoping to make this a community event. High school students will be volunteering to help with games. It will be \$10 per family for up to six people, and \$5 per person after that. The PTO will provide candy, glow sticks, erasers, pencils, etc. We will gladly accept donations of candy and other filler items.
- Starbucks Gift Cards- the winning PTO members of the \$15 Starbucks gift cards were Jen Herbert, Stephanie Damiani, and Christina Friske. We are trying to offer incentives for members to volunteer. We will continue doing fun things like this throughout the year.

Bylaws- presented by Meghann Gillette. According to our current bylaws, in order to make any amendments to the bylaws, it needs to be presented at the September PTO meeting. See below about the amendments being made to the bylaws.

Upcoming Events

- September 18-22 ASE teacher recruitment
- September 25 No school
- **October 3 PTO Meeting 5:30-6:30 Will be changing this date to the 10th as it's the same night as National Night Out with Stafford County**
- October 4-11 ASE registration open
- October 6 No school
- October 9 No school & Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 11 Fall picture day
- October 13 Outdoor movie night 6:30pm
- October 13 ASE placements emailed
- October 18 ASE Fall session begins
- October 18 Five Guys spirit night 4-8pm
- October 27 Trunk or Treat

Principal's Report by Ms. White

There is a school board meeting tonight where they will be discussing the calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. Those drafts are on the school board website and will open to public comment after tonight. It is pushing our start of the school year back by a week. The goal is to make it so graduation does not align with Memorial Day weekend. It will also alter our week for spring break. Reach out to Ms. White and/or your school board representative with any

questions or concerns. October 9 is conference day, so you should be expecting an email from your teachers to set up meetings that day to discuss your student's progress.

Open for Questions

With ASE, are we able to just volunteer to be a chaperone instead of teaching?

Yes, you could do that. You do need a background check in order to work with children after hours at the school. We would need to ask those teaching if they have a need for a volunteer once we have class lists.

For the background checks, is it a calendar year, or a school year?

Calendar year

For ASE, are there a certain number of students that need to sign up for a class in order for the class to happen?

On the google form, it breaks down how many students per teacher, and how it will be divided if there aren't enough students signed up.

Is ASE open to all grades?

Yes, it is open to all grades, but only certain grades can do certain classes.

Closing remarks by Asheli- Our goal this year is to make volunteer time slots shorter so you can volunteer, but also still enjoy the events with your Gators. Information will be sent out about Trunk or Treat, Outdoor Movie Night, and our approved budget when the meeting minutes are emailed out. Our next meeting will be on October 10 at 5:30.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:04 pm

Members in attendance in person:

Asheli Polychrones, Jessica Brown, Jessica Meade, Kathryn Pendleton, Carrie Kortman, Amanda Brewer, Alexis White, Jodi Odum, Meghan Moon, Brianna Nilsson, Tashea Clark, Brandon Meade, Lauren Ziemba Moyer

Members in attendance virtually:

Meg Courtney, Susan Harker, Jamie Hilbmann, Meghann Gillette, Jenna Cooper, Jasmine Lee, Patrick Stormer, Jamie Brandt

Detailed amendments to the bylaws-

According to current bylaws, amendments must be presented at the September meeting (tonight)

- Previous board feels it's necessary because many stipulations and procedures didn't really align with how we wanted/needed to proceed & don't align with the shift in school calendar
- Bylaws have not been modified in many years and there is not a clear record of changes since the beginning of the organization

- Proposal will need to be voted on by email vote of membership after the meeting
- Redline version
 - Mostly cleaning up language, grammar, punctuation, formatting, etc.
 - Edited by a lawyer
 - Clarifies gray areas relating to policy & procedures for voting and other budget related items

Objectives and Mission

- Stays the same - basic policies/ethics are unchanged

Membership & Dues

- Clarification on timeline for providing families with membership cost
- Gives the PTO board ability to review and/or change the cost each year as new board members may cycle in or out
- More clearly defines what it means to be a member "in good standing," with voting rights and the ability to be elected within the organization

Officers & Elections

- More specific about how the electronic voting will take place
- Gives a more clear timeline when that needs to happen, when board turnover needs to happen and that now aligns with the shift in the school calendar
- Explains who is eligible to run, leaves a little less gray area about possible sharing of a position
- Explains how officers can be removed in the case of some kind of misconduct or not representing the school in a good light

Duties of Officers

- Substance stayed the same, with the exception of modifying timeline
- Gives flexibility in language if the school calendar is changed again, ex: "two weeks after the last day of school" vs "July 31st"

Executive Committee and Standing and Special Committees

- Just cleaned up language that was vague

Meeting

- Took away the very specific verbiage that PTO meetings will take place on Thursdays night at 6:45 or a time deemed appropriate
- Gives the board more flexibility in scheduling for the school year
- Ensures that all dates are put on the calendar by the first day of school

Conduct of Meetings

- No changes

Voting

- Revamped to describe the process of voting much more clearly
 - Many gray areas previously, so gives more clarification about the process so voting process is aligned through each vote

Funding

- Mostly language and presenting the dollar amount and approval required in a more user- friendly format
 - Dollar amounts didn't change

Remainder of document - language-related