

GES PTO
November 4, 2019
Meeting Minutes



- **Meeting Called to Order by Erica Edenton at 6:33pm**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Harvest Night Recap**
 - Thank you Kate Shifflett, Lindsey Cole, Ms. White and Mrs. Odum for ALL of your help!
 - Thanks to all of our volunteers and to those who set up cars!
 - With it being our first year doing trunk or treat, there was a lot of trial and error. All in all, it was a great success!
 - Kids enjoyed the movie
 - Tweak some things for next year
 - Concessions could run smoother. We had A LOT of people in line and also ran out of pizza.
 - May ask for more candy donations next year
 - Compared to Harvest Night last year
 - Brought in about the same amount of money and we didn't have to pay a custodian since the event was outside

- **Gator Gear updates**
 - 2 designs brought back from last year, 1 new design this year
 - \$1,344 in sales so far (before expenses)
 - Sale ends THIS Friday, November 8th
 - Selling t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, hoodies, car magnets and drawstring bags

- **Box Tops**
 - Submitted \$375 in box tops and \$80 in scanned receipts
 - Make sure to download the new Box Tops app on your phone and scan all of your receipts.
 - You can still cut them off and send in, too!

- Mrs. Offineer's class and Miss Lee's class tied for most amount of box tops! They have won an ice cream party!
- Please continue to collect box tops and scan receipts

- **Friendsgiving Luncheon 11/21**
 - Thanksgiving lunch for teachers
 - PTO is providing meats for the lunch
 - Will need volunteers to help decorate room on the night of Nov. 20th
 - Should only take a couple of hours – maybe 6-7:30pm in Room 29
 - Students maybe could help make decorations?

- **Spirit Nights**
 - Working to add a Spirit Night in November since it is too cold for an outdoor movie.
 - Chick Fil A brought in over \$440! Thanks to everyone who made it out for dinner!
 - Highest we've ever earned from Chick-fil-a!!!! They give us a percentage of ALL sales from 5-8pm.

- **Pancake Breakfast**
 - Looking for crafters
 - \$20 for a table
 - They may set up and sell their items between 9am and noon
 - If you know anyone who might want to participate, please have them email gesparent.teacher.organization@gmail.com
 - Local business donations for raffles and silent auction
 - Book Fair will be in the library
 - New this year – games and crafts for kids to do
 - They will be scattered in between vendor tables in the 4th & 2nd grade hallways and along the hallway into the Gator Dome where there will be a surprise guest.
 - Other highlights
 - Performance by the Singing Gators
 - Movie playing
 - Silent Auction
 - Changing a few things this year

- **After School Enrichment**

- We are in our 3rd week and it is going well!
- Next ASE will be a Winter session in February
 - Possible change from 6, 1 hour sessions to 4, 1.5 hour sessions for this upcoming session
 - Makes it easier for parents who can't get here at 4:45pm to pick their kids up
 - Spring break is so early this year and did not want to send info home until after Winter Break
 - Would like to have the session complete by Spring Break
 - Gator Week is the week of March 2nd
- Will make sure to solicit beyond staff to teach ASE classes for the next session

- **Treasurer Report**

- Harvest Night/Trunk or Treat brought in \$2,716.16, which gives us a profit of \$1,616.18
- Currently, we have no large outstanding expenses.
- Current balance = \$19,860.63
- We have just received the check from Chick-fil-a Spirit Night and more Boosterthon money to deposit.

- **Principal Report**

- The school has received \$10,000 from PTO's Boosterthon earnings
 - An author/illustrator is coming to present to our students in December
 - Enhancements to recess
 - Received a student petition with 100 signatures to install a Gaga Court
 - Octagon-shaped court
 - Students stand inside and play a version of dodgeball
 - There are actual leagues and rules for this game. Kids will be able to learn through PE instruction.
 - Cost & Installation
 - \$3,900 for the pit itself
 - 350lb structure, trex-like materials so no splinters

- Not in-ground. Metal posts slide into the base lock
 - \$1,800 to have a door added
 - Consensus was that the door was not needed. Kids can jump over it.
 - \$2,500 for installation if we want the company to install it
 - If we don't get it installed by the company, it does NOT void the warranty
 - Cub scout pack and their families will do the installation
 - Will get the ball moving on ordering and installation, so our students can enjoy it before the dead of winter
 - Location will be caddy corner to both playgrounds
 - Shade Sails to put over picnic table area
 - It gets really hot there & will allow more use for the area
 - Outdoor Libraries
 - Mr. Williams will be building waterproof libraries
 - One for the garden and one in Vista Woods
 - Trying to get them in other GES student neighborhoods, Shelton's Run, Arbor Glen, Anne's
 - Cost to build is about \$100 each.
 - School will supply the books
 - Promoting the love of literacy
 - Whatever money we have left after these purchases will go directly into the classrooms
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- November – Month of the military family
 - Technology Advisory Committee meeting at GES Nov 18th
 - Showcasing our school, how we use chromebooks
 - 1:1 ratio for 1st-5th grade
 - 2:1 ratio for Kindergarten
 - 2nd highest ratio in the county
 - Parent Advisory Committee meeting
 - Nov 19th at 6pm
 - Email Ms. White if you want to participate
 - Discusses how we can better include families in volunteer opportunities

- Pancake Breakfast
 - We have a lot of events that run on volunteers
 - Looking for more effective ways to manage the amount of time we demand of teachers outside of their contract hours
 - We have had a drop in parent volunteers – people are busy, working, managing other things, want to enjoy the events with their kids
 - It has been very difficult to get the amount of help we need to run events. We do not want to start canceling the events because of it.
 - Pancake breakfast is HIGH demand for volunteers
 - Staff arrives at 6am to flip pancakes and continue cooking until the end of the event
 - Need 8-10 griddles running – about 30 people just do the cooking aspect (5 hours of shifts)
 - Why do families come to pancake breakfast?
 - Family/community event
 - Raffles, Silent Auction
 - Singing Gators
 - Not sure people come specifically for the ‘pancake’ part
 - Asked PTO to consider a less time intensive menu, with less of a price tag
 - Previous Cost:
 - To cook pancakes we HAVE to have kitchen staff here to use the GES kitchen – Cost is \$250
 - Custodian is approx \$200
 - Last year, spent approx \$500 on food and \$450 on kitchen staff and custodian
 - With raffles and silent auction, pancake breakfast brought in about \$3,000 last year
 - Vendors are paying \$20 per table to set up
 - Not trying to ruin tradition – trying to be mindful
 - Marines can come help
 - They have to be face to face with students and interacting with them
 - They will most likely be helping with games and crafts

- Ideas

- “Holiday Festival” - \$10 flat rate family entry for up to a family of 6
 - Access to vendors, crafts, games, movie, Singing Gators, hot chocolate bar, special guest character, silent auction and raffles
 - Sell concessions at cost to families – items with no up-front cooking
 - Ex: Biscuits, chick-fil-a breakfast, bagels, donuts, etc with no up-front cooking
 - Significantly cuts down on the number of volunteers needed
 - Tricky part is knowing how much food to purchase to at least break even
- Volunteers
 - Someone to run concessions
 - Jenna Cooper volunteered
 - Someone to oversee volunteers for games and crafts
 - 7 stations will be set up throughout the school
 - Erica making games
 - Small prizes
 - Games/Crafts will be open 9am-noon
 - Silent Auction ends at 11:30am
 - Signup for volunteers will go out this week or early next week
 - Will start promoting the event earlier this year since it will be changing
 - If you know any businesses willing to donate a raffle item, we have a letter with our Tax ID that we can send you. Email the PTO.
- Presales
 - DARE Graduation
 - Spirit Night
 - Paypal – distribute tickets to classrooms

- **Teacher Report**

- **Meeting followed by Pancake Breakfast Planning**

- **Upcoming Events**
 - Election Day, No school 11/5
 - Veterans Day Luncheon 11/8
 - We invite all Veterans to have lunch with us during regular lunch times
 - Ms. Ranttila has made videos of our gators to show
 - For those who have Gators with different lunch times, we will use Room 29 as a holding room between lunches
 - 1:30pm-3:30pm Class for Military Connected Families
 - LINKSS Class on the Five Love Languages
 - Veterans Day, No school 11/11
 - Thanksgiving Break, No school 11/27-11/29
 - PTO meeting 12/2 6:30pm
 - Will be making finalizations for Pancake Breakfast

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20pm

PTO Members in Attendance

- 1. Ms. White**
- 2. Erica Edenton**
- 3. Todd McClean**
- 4. Meghann Gillette**
- 5. Tammy Atkins**
- 6. Jessica Whiteley**
- 7. Anne Marie Carson**
- 8. Michele Golles**
- 9. Jenna Cooper**
- 10. Rob Long**
- 11. Kristina Miller**
- 12. Amtulnoor Grosser**
- 13. Berit Aloisio**
- 14. Heather Ulstad**

