

Garrisonville Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2021



Meeting Call to Order by Meghann Gillette at 6:33pm

Welcome

Treasurer's Report by Jessica Whiteley

- Balance as of 10/28/2021 - \$31,163.81

- Taxes
 - Completed and will be mailed this week

- Fall Fun Friday (aka Harvest Night/Trunk or Treat)
 - Spent about \$300
 - Well under budget
 - We were budgeted to profit \$1,100 if we had held the regular, paid-entry event

- Boosterthon Money
 - Starting to spend the money that we give to the school (usually \$10,000) on equipment for indoor and outdoor recess
 - Spent \$2,923.49 on indoor games, 2 large recess storage bins, outdoor balls, frisbees, games and a variety of other equipment
 - Will be spending on an as-needed basis due to uncertainty of budget

- Panda Express Spirit Night
 - Brought in \$133.88

- Overall
 - Unclear if we will be able to profit on future events
 - We are being really careful to stay under budget on all expenditures until we can start earning money on events again.

Fall Fun Friday Recap

- We hope your kids had a fun day on Friday – rain and all!
 - Appreciate how flexible all of our families and staff have been the last few months
 - Everyone has taken new plans and switched gears at the drop of a hat to make sure the kids enjoy themselves!
- Thank yous
 - Thank you to all of our families who donated costumes
 - Quite a few students were excited to come down to the office to pick out something to wear
 - All remaining costumes will be donated locally
 - Thank you to the parents who came for the costume parade
 - Great turnout and the kids loved seeing parents in the school for the first time in a long time!
 - Thank you to the “trunk” decorators
 - Tables were amazing and so creative!
 - Ended up with 12 tables set up around the perimeter of the gym
 - Several parents had little ones with them – no small feat on a day it was pouring!
 - Thank you to the staff for planning awesome C5W activities throughout the day
- PTO Favor
 - All of the kids should have come home with:
 - Scratch bookmark craft
 - Free Wendy’s Frosty coupon
 - Free Panda Express Kid’s Meal
- Raffles
 - 24 small prizes raffled off at the end of the day
 - Prizes came from our 2020 Bingo raffle and silent auction items that we’ve held onto the last year and a half
 - Each grade level had 4 winners
- Trunk Winners
 - 1st place – Harry Potter
 - 2nd place – Mad Science
 - 3rd place - Pokemon

After School Enrichment Update

- Begins on Wednesday
 - Registration closed last week – 167 students signed up!
 - Most we've ever had
 - All students who applied for scholarships were granted them (11)
 - 15 classes
 - Needed to recruit more teachers to enable all who signed up to participate

Spirit Nights

- Panda Express
 - Great turnout!
 - Brought in \$133.88
- Upcoming
 - Chipotle Spirit Night
 - Next Week – Tuesday, November 9th from 4-8pm
 - PTO will get 33% credit for everything except delivery orders
 - Code on our website and Facebook to use for pickup orders placed online. Otherwise just mention GES PTO at the register when you get your food in the restaurant.
 - Panera Spirit Night
 - Tuesday, December 7th
 - See our website or Facebook event page for more information
 - Fredericksburg Nationals
 - Coordinating a date for a GES Night at the end of April or beginning of May
 - Need to plan around SOL testing dates
 - Hoping to have a GES staff member able to throw out the first pitch
 - We should have more information worked out later this month regarding date and ticket prices
 - Suggestions for other local places to hold a spirit night?
 - Stafford Wings
 - Chick-fil-a
 - Five Guys
 - Starbucks
 - Firehouse Subs
 - Jersey Mikes

Gator Gear

- Online store is OPEN!

- Orders will close on Thursday, November 11th at 5pm
 - Flyer will go home in student folders later this week
 - All orders must be placed online – paper orders, cash and checks will not be accepted

- Inventory
 - Stock is changing on a regular basis, but printer was more confident about being able to get the products we need
 - We do not plan on ordering extras to keep on hand so as of right now, this will be the only opportunity to get spirit wear this year

- Designs from previous years
 - Some designs we currently have in stock – very limited size and color options
 - We will not be placing custom orders for those designs – what we have listed is all we have
 - Any orders that include only these currently in-stock items may be delivered early

- Delivery
 - Anticipating about a 3 week turnaround from the time we get our bulk order to the printer
 - Gives us about a week of flexibility in getting them to students before winter break
 - Hopeful items will be delivered to classrooms before winter break, but can't guarantee it at this time. Lots of factors that are out of our control with national supply chain issues.
 - Printer is close so we can pickup our order rather than having to wait for shipping, which will save us some valuable time
 - Updates on status will be posted to our website, social media and emailed as necessary
 - All items will be delivered to your oldest child's classroom unless otherwise noted on your order
 - Text box on the website on each product page where you can tell us if you do not want your order sent to the classroom
 - We will contact those people individually to arrange for pickup

Principal's Report

- Thank you to PTO for the apple bar provided on the last day of the quarter to the staff and for the candy in staff goodie bags on Fall Fun Friday

- American Education week – Nov 15-19

- Hoping to celebrate Kindergarten playground reveal during this week (construction has started)
- School's 40th birthday celebration planned for this week
 - Fun dress up day information coming soon
- COVID
 - Fewer cases, slowing numbers
 - Still have some students quarantined
 - Expecting a bump in cases after Thanksgiving and again after Winter Break
 - Appreciate families following protocols and exercising precautions in and out of school to help mitigate spread

Book Fair Information – Ms. Golles

- In-school Book Fair begins at the end of the month
 - November 23 – student preview day
 - Students will have a chance to see the books set up in the library at a designated time with their class
 - Shopping begins November 29th
 - Parents can come shop between the hours of 12:30-2pm
 - No volunteers needed – in order to keep exposures limited and make sure kids are safe
 - Purchasing books for teachers
 - Teachers will write top 3 titles on bulletin board rather than pulling books to put in a bin
 - Parents can choose one of those to purchase

Open Comments/Input

- Will we be holding any type of event in December - Holiday Festival/Pancake Breakfast, etc?
 - We have a proposal from Jenna Cooper – Holiday Festival Chair – regarding a holiday festival but not sure about an indoor event
 - Administration is willing to support PTO in holding an event; however, all safety protocols must be followed, enough volunteers must be secured and PTO must take full responsibility for enforcing all rules, masking, etc.
 - Will meet with Jenna to discuss further
- Suggestion/Idea from Tina Johnson
 - Twinkle Shop
 - Gather donations, etc to provide gifts for needy families in the school community for the holidays
 - Ms. White says that the school covers this for our student body
 - Notification goes out to families to request need
 - Thanksgiving basket info is going out next week

- Names are run through the Dept of Social Services to make sure they aren't already receiving holiday support from them
- Family members (including siblings not at our school) submit wish lists, clothing/shoe sizes, etc
- Staff and other partnering organizations purchase wish list items as they would an angel tree, wrap the gifts, provide food baskets
- What about families that won't request support, but may still need it?
 - Teachers have pretty good radar and will reach out to families
 - They can choose to participate or not
- Can PTO support this effort?
 - Ms. White will keep us informed if they need help this year
- Sorority's Social Action Committee
 - Tina Johnson is chair and willing to assist PTO if/when we need outside support
 - Donating time/items, etc

Upcoming Events & News

- **Nov 2** — No School, Election Day
- **Nov 3** — ASE Begins
- **Nov 9** — Chipotle Spirit Night — 4pm-8pm
- **Nov 11, 12** — No School, Veterans Day
- **Nov 18** — Picture Retakes
- **Nov 24-26** — No School, Thanksgiving Break
- **Dec 6** — PTO Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 7:07pm

Virtual Meeting Attendance:

1. **Alexis White**
2. **Amanda Leonard**
3. **Betty Fitzhugh**
4. **Christina Horan**
5. **Deborah Reep**
6. **Heather Ulstad**
7. **Jennifer Herbert**
8. **Jessica Whiteley**
9. **Jodi Odlum**
10. **Kate Shifflett**
11. **Kristina Miller**

- 12. Meghann Gillette**
- 13. Michele Golles**
- 14. Nawid Haidari**
- 15. Neil McCoy**
- 16. Sana A**
- 17. Tina Johnson**
- 18. Todd McClean**
- 19. Unknown**