

# Garrisonville Elementary PTO

## Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2022



**Meeting Call to Order by Meghann Gillette at 6:02pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Treasurer's Report by Jessica Whiteley**

- Trunk or Treat
  - No income
  - Budget for \$2,200, but was made to be a free school community event
  - Spent \$932.80
    - Student goodie bags
    - Budgeted to spend \$1,000
  
- ASE
  - Income - \$7,516.84
  - Teacher fees and supplies - \$6,294.48
  - Budgeted to make \$4,600 on two sessions
    - This session made \$1,222.36
    - Lowered costs this session for siblings and increased the teacher pay so didn't make what was projected
  
- Emerging Requests
  - Story Walk and Whiteboard tables for 1st grade classrooms were approved
    - Waiting until early spring to ensure funds are still available due to this being our first "normal" year for this board and budget was based off of pre-covid years

**Wrap-ups**

- Outdoor Movie Night - October
  - Such a great turnout! Filled the whole AGW blacktop area
  - Post-event wrap-up survey

- Enjoyed the fact that it was free to be there
      - Having a movie vote & choice
      - Sound was excellent (thanks to Carrie Kortman, Amanda Leonard and James Foster from AGW)
      - Food was delicious
      - People loved being with their friends and meeting new families
      - Space behind AGW was the perfect size for us
    - Constructive criticism
      - Have a 4th food truck to help with lines
        - 4th truck was there and had to leave with a sick child
      - Suggested that we do our own concessions
        - Possibility in the future
        - Wanted to keep it as simple as possible this time & didn't want to have to rely on a bunch of volunteers until we knew the scale of the event
        - Would've been hard to accommodate that large of a crowd with just our own concessions to sell
    - Split the blacktop for blankets on one side and chairs on the other.
      - Hard to see in the back because so many chairs were in the front
        - Also don't want to punish people who bring chairs and stick them in the back
        - A left/right split should be helpful
    - Suggested that we raise the screen or get a much bigger one
      - Purchasing a larger screen is not on our radar at this time
        - Our screen is 20ft and has only been used 2 or 3 times - it's brand new!
          - Larger screens are upwards of \$1,000 and would only be used once or twice a year
        - Not able to be raised off the ground because it has a fan attachment that has to be running the entire time
        - Option to use the flat screen AG Wright has. It's not a bigger screen, but it may be able to be raised higher off the ground.
    - Policing children running around in the dark
      - Not something that PTO will consider as our responsibility, unless they were running around the audio/video equipment, but we do understand that it's a safety issue and is distracting
  - We'd love to do another one in the spring, but not sure if the sunset times and cold weather will work out
- After School Enrichment

- 222 students, including 21 scholarships (only 4 of those didn't pay the reduced \$10 fee)
- 18 different course offerings
- Thank you SO much to all of the staff and parents who took on teaching a class and for the implementation of the carline for pickup!
  
- Spirit Night at Chipotle
  - Made \$562.70, which was 33% of total sales!
    - Continuing to exceed our projected income for spirit nights, which ultimately means that we'll be able to make more contributions to the school
    - Thank you for coming out!
  - Sam's Spirit Night coming up this Thursday (11/17) from 5-9pm
  
- Trunk or Treat
  - Post-event wrap-up survey
    - Things that went well
      - Repeated a few times that the kids loved all of the carnival games and were excited to see all of the awesome trunk decorations
      - Staff liked having rotations
      - Troubleshooting the weather and rebounding as it happened
    - Things to consider next time around
      - Volunteers Feedback
        - Would like to stay with their trunk and have other volunteers run games
        - Build in times for food and bathroom breaks, or have volunteers rotate with the class rather than stay at the same station the whole time
      - Staff feedback
        - Mostly time related - that it wasn't enough time for everything
        - Asked to have input for age appropriate games and change them depending on the grade level that came out since some were a little too much for the younger ones and not as challenging for the older ones
        - Suggested not to call it "trunk or treat" unless we plan to give out candy or treats
          - Many of the kids thought they'd be getting candy at the trunks
          - Asked if we could give out treats next time
            - With such a broad range of allergies across the school, if we did anything, it would still have to be non-food items

- Some costumes too scary and not school appropriate or had too many pieces that were distracting in the classroom
  - Maybe reframe as storybook character day and also have the parade at the beginning of the day so that parents could take home kids' costumes rather than having to deal with aspects, like the bathroom, all day
- Responses were split for whether to have it during school again or have an evening event, but there were only 14 surveys that we received back, so we'll need to decide how to proceed for next year
- October Emerging Requests
  - Item 1 - Storywalk - **\$1,980.16** Passed 46 Yes, 0 No
  - Item 2 - 1st Grade White Board Tables - **\$1,091.55** Passed 44 Yes, 2 No

### Field Trips/Student Experiences Updates

- Boosterthon funds being put to great use!
  - Focus this year was to raise money for student experiences and field trips
  - Trips/Experiences so far:
    - 3rd graders had in-school field trip with the Richmond Children's Museum
      - They had presentations and hands-on activities related to the simple machines unit that they were working on in science
    - School-wide author visit for the entire school
      - Each grade level heard a presentation from Courtney Woodward about her book, Family Dynamics, a couple of weeks ago
    - Covered a portion of 5th grade trip to Richmond to visit the Science Museum
  - Funds have also paid for recorders for 4th and 5th graders
  - Will update as other events and trips are added, so you know where your donations are going!

### Book Fair — Ms. Golles

- Scholastic Book Fair is HERE!! November 22nd - December 3rd
  - If you are interested and would like to volunteer on any of the days from 9am-12pm, please contact Ms. Golles at [gollesmt@staffordschools.net](mailto:gollesmt@staffordschools.net)
- Important shopping information
  - Open for students to shop during the school day
  - Open for family members to shop from 12:30pm-2:00pm (Please enter in the doors by the library.)
  - Open after school on Tuesday, November 29th 3:30pm-5:30pm

- Open during PTO Holiday Festival 9:00am-12:00pm
- Online Purchases & E-wallet
  - Shop online from 11/22-12/5
    - Go to <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/garrisonvilleeemschool>
  - Set up an e-wallet for your child(s)
    - <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/parent-how-it-works.html?fairID=5204653>

## Next Month

- Holiday Festival
  - Food - Hot Cocoa, Bagels, Muffins, Danishes and Bottled Water available for purchase (Elf Cafe)
  - Still accepting vendors
  - Volunteers
    - Signup Genius on social media and email blast to all families
    - Please sign up this week if you can
      - If we can't get close to the number of volunteers, we'll need to reconsider portions of the event or cancel it
  - Silent Auction
    - Collecting items with different themes by grade level to make baskets
    - Donations from variety of local and national businesses and sports teams
  - Elf Shop
    - Small gifts for kids to buy/make for friends and family
    - Cash only
    - Selfie method of drop off and pick up for security measures
    - Volunteers will help the kids shop and get their items wrapped before leaving
- Books for Student Gifts
  - Plan to give each student a wrapped book before winter break again this year.
    - It was a huge hit having Wally deliver those as a surprise last year.
    - Sending out another sign-up in the near future to have a wrapping party so we can get them organized and ready to go

## Principal's Report by Ms. White

- Thank you for all of your support!
  - Boosterthon funds are being spent well
  - Some trips in the works for each grade level
    - Kindergarten: George Washington foundation
    - 3rd grade: Government center
    - More will be announced as they're planned!

## **Staff Presentation by Ms. Mir on Reading**

- First year at GES with experience in Westmoreland and Spotsylvania counties
- Focus on strong reading instruction and also encouraging a love of reading
- Decodable Readers
  - Books, passages, or sentences that encourage children to sound out words and use decoding strategies rather than just guessing
    - Training wheels of reading, kids need that practice to get them ready to take off and read
  - Several resources using decodable approach, including online and print outs that come home
  - Sequential and build on child's phonics knowledge
    - As they learn more phonics features, books get more complex
    - Shared a few example books from the reading lab, books get more complex for upper grade levels
    - Plan isn't to stay in decodable readers but great for them to use until they no longer need the decodable approach and have a grasp on phonics
  - Things to do at home
    - Encourage kids to read at home, take turns reading a page each, consider keeping track of how many times they've practiced a given book or skill
    - Word hunts are a great tool, make a list of words they find with a certain feature (like a short "o")
    - Magnetic letters are a good tool as well, pull words from text, spell them using magnets or on white boards

## **Open Comments/Input**

- Mrs. Farrell-Kuzma - In-school field trip for 3rd grade
  - Experience was great!
  - All third grade classes got 45-60 minutes
    - Tubs of materials, 4 rotations
      - Worked with simple machines
      - Benefit of hands on experiences
    - Visits in each classroom made it so there weren't too many kids trying to use materials at one time
  - Good way to ease back into field trips and will be doing something local in the Spring

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Nov 17** — Sam's Spirit Night 5pm-9pm
- **Nov 23-25** — No School
- **Dec 3** — Holiday Festival 9am-Noon
- **Dec 21-Jan 4** — No School
- **Jan 9** — PTO Meeting
- **Jan 10** — Panera Spirit Night 4pm-8pm

- **Feb 10** — Family Sweethearts Dance 6:30pm-8pm
- **Feb 27** — PTO Budget/Executive Board Nominations Open

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:40pm**

**Meeting Attendance (In-person and Online):**

1. **Alexis White**
2. **Amanda Leonard**
3. **Ben Warren**
4. **Betty Fitzhugh**
5. **Brandon Meade**
6. **Bridgette Farrell-Kuzma**
7. **Ceylon Warren**
8. **Cynthia Childress**
9. **Debroah Roeseler**
10. **Erin Altschuler**
11. **Haydee Castro**
12. **Helen Joura**
13. **Jamie Hilbmann**
14. **Janine Maloney**
15. **Jessica Meade**
16. **Jessica Whiteley**
17. **Jocelyn Mir**
18. **Jodi Odlum**
19. **Kathryn Pendleton**
20. **Meghann Gillette**
21. **Michele Golles**
22. **Parwana Omar Nezam**
23. **Patricia Blanco**
24. **Pavan Kumar**
25. **Robbie Sonnenberg**
26. **Sana A**
27. **Stacie Warnick**
28. **Stephanie Sonnenberg**
29. **Todd McLean**