

## **Wood Gormley PTC Meeting**

**Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Date: December 9, 2021**

**Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Attendees, board members:** Denise Thomas, President; Carrie Wood, Vice President; Ana Archuleta, Secretary; Kristin Roby, Communications and Classroom Representative Coordinator; Christy Wood, Spring Events Chair; Leticia Bernal, Winter Events Chair; Audrey Liddy, Treasurer

**Parent attendees:** Melanie Boylan; Anita Babcock; Cozette Hansen; Michal Hayes; Ron G.; Mel Grover; Gyanu; Deborah Ungar; Alexandra Fleming

**Principal:** Karen Lindeen

**Teacher representative:** Marcia Loy

### **Meeting Called to order by President at 6:05pm**

#### **Introductions**

#### **Approval of November Minutes**

Minutes Approved

#### **Principal's Report: Karen Lindeen**

A lot is going on right now as the year comes to an end, and half of it involves the PTC. The Snowflake drive went really well, the snowman mural is complete and a photo will be going in Principal's update tomorrow. We seem to have figured out all of the logistics for getting the gifts to the families tomorrow also.

Kids are super thrilled about the food drive, so a lot of food came in today and there will be lots of counting tomorrow.

The Lost and found is set up outside and we are encouraging families to look through everything before those things get donated along with the items collected during the coat drive.

Next week is Spirit Week and the kids will have the opportunity to wear different things each day. The Secretary and I are planning a spirit week for teachers. This round we have it under control and everyday the teachers will get something special to keep them going. Ms. Lindeen got donuts donated from the donut truck, Mr. McGregor was happy to provide donuts for the teachers, so one day donuts will go around on the cart, a drink cart another day, one day is a candy bag for the teachers, and on

Friday we are hoping for a theme of rest envisioning eye pillows or sleeping masks, still haven't found those, something restful and peaceful. The district is also bringing donuts one day for the teachers (which of course won't be as good as the ones Ms. Lindeen has planned ☺).

Test to stay has started, district has announced it and the hope is that it helps with keeping kids in the classroom. Since our last PTC meeting the numbers are almost non-existent right now, which has made a big difference and it has felt really good in the school. The hope is that we can start reintroducing families to events again soon and currently it feels like we are headed back in that direction again. Ms. Lindeen looks much less stressed and is feeling good.

**Questions:** Is the school going to be collecting vaccination cards or is there some plan for that? Not sure yet what the district's plan is for handing vaccination status among students. As we are identifying close contacts we are able to ask about vaccination status, but it is unclear if the district has or even if they are working on a plan. Our school nurses have access to the Department of Health system, so if we wanted that information we could access it, but Ms. Lindeen is not sure how we would be able to pull that information for a whole group of kids. Denise did have a conversation with the superintendent at a luncheon and he said he gets asked all the time, "Can we find out which teachers? And now which students?" And the answer is that we can't and we aren't going to. From what is understood, there isn't going to be much more than what he said. The concern is that if we start requiring vaccines and posting that information we will start losing teachers and there is such a shortage already it just isn't worth it. Parent suggestion that it would be nice to have an anonymous survey to know the percentages of vaccinated students to help parents feel safer with that knowledge. Ms. Lindeen reports that it seems like most people are quick to report if they are vaccinated and what they have also seen is that kids seem to all be really excited about getting the vaccine. Another parent suggestion/request is to do a database where people can volunteer the information? Ms. Lindeen will ask about what sort of an informal survey could be done. Teachers seem to be informally gathering information. It is very important that we do not violate anything, but she will see what she can find out. Opinions expressed that it does not seem like a good idea and likely would mostly just cause strife and concern. This is an extremely divisive topic that could really do a lot of damage if we aren't careful. There are a lot of strong feelings on all sides and it is a difficult conversation all around. Kids are definitely talking and having the conversation amongst each other. Teachers are having lots of conversations in the classrooms about respecting different opinions so that we can be sure that the kids are being kind and respectful towards each other.

### **Treasurer Report**

The PTC received a \$1000 donation from a parent, Audrey will need to get tax documentation to them and will work with Ms. Lindeen to coordinate that. In regard to the donation, Christy has some receipt templates that have been used before for Panther Run. Some class room supply and teacher reimbursement requests have been trickling in. The invoice for a portion of the art teacher supplement has been received. Audrey also has some random invoices that we need to figure out where to place

them: i.e. the pies and coffee purchased for the teachers for Thanksgiving. Teacher luncheons previously went under staff meetings and have also been put in operating expenses. Usually those weren't as high, but they have gone up. We could do sunshine committee. Suggestion that we should add a line item for the budget because operating expenses is not really the appropriate place for teacher support/appreciation type expenses. Audrey will add a line for now so it is getting recorded to keep track of it.

The laminator arrived, did the sheets for the laminator arrive? Rolls arrived today and one roll came with the machine. Not sure if the original rolls that were ordered will work with new machine or not. Ms. Lindeen will check on that. Speakers were ordered too, only 2 to start and the teachers who tried them out seem to have been thrilled with them.

Audrey had flagged a fee for our domain for our website and Christy told Audrey not to pay it because we pay for this already via square space, Christy is working on figuring that out. Website hosting and domain renewal should be added to operating expenses and perhaps we can get a discount because of our 501c3 status.

There are extra gift cards from the Snowflake Drive that could be used for Teacher appreciation (to be discussed in more detail later). We don't have that in the budget yet so we need to add that in. We did have some money from last year's Snowflake Drive leftover, so we could redirect that for Teacher appreciation as well. There were two checks that never got cashed from last year's Snowflake Drive, each one was \$400 so we should have \$800 in there. We did use a little of that for the Snowflake Drive this year to even out donations. We will circle back to this conversation later in the meeting.

Snowflake Drive total raised was \$4,820, each person got \$151. That amount was per person in each family we are supporting. We did take some funds out of last year's amount balance. This year we provided support for 9 families. It was a great event, 60 donations contributed to the total. Everyone likes the new format of providing the gift per person in the family so it is more equally shared.

### **Winter Event: Report from Chair**

Leticia had to jump off, Denise and Ana will provide a basic overview of Leticia's idea. Plan is to sell cookie making kits that will be ordered in advance. The kits will come in different tiers and be a true fundraiser, rather than a way to gather as the Winter Event has been previously. About creating an opportunity to raise some funds. It will need to be up on the website, but don't feel there is enough time to get it together for the holidays, so looking at maybe moving it to a Valentine event. Any thoughts? Cookie cutters would be cute. How sanitary is this? Do we have to consider that as we put together the kits, unclear what the implications of that might be and what our requirements would be. Suggestion, what if we did valentine card kits along with the cookies or instead of as another option to purchase. Putting them together would be an assembly line-like production process. Those "easy" candy bags for Halloween were good prep for this, but we will require/recommend many more volunteers to make it move much more quickly. Good idea for something new and fun. Mask up and

wear hairnets and gloves and maybe do it in the Wood Gormley kitchen to create a controlled sanitary environment, seems like it would be easy enough to remedy the sanitary requirements. Need to pull together more logistical planning to manage the ordering and delivery, etc. and have everything going smoothly. Historically we pull in a lot of other help outside of the PTC to help pull off the Winter Event. A sub-committee would be helpful in this case.

### **Panther Run: Report from Chair**

Lots of new faces, does everyone know what the Panther Run is? Long ongoing event, we are on year 17. It started as a 5K community run many years ago that went around the whole neighborhood. Similar to the Turkey Trot put on by Atalaya. It was a big event throughout the whole city. Rules changed with the city that events like the Panther Run needed to be held in specific areas around the railyard and plaza, so the school could no longer get the permits for the event to be held around the community. About 4 years ago it was changed to a 1k fun run for the kids, done by grade level. Traditionally it has been one of our largest fundraisers, generally raising approximately \$20k. We seek out local business sponsors to support our expenses and we have t-shirts, water bottles, all kinds of things to get the kids excited. We do incentives by class and also individuals to get the kids involved in helping raise funds that support the kids. Kids get personal incentives just for participating, i.e. gym teacher hands out gifts just for signing up. Examples of some classroom incentives: teachers might dye their hair, or kids get an extra recess or a pizza party or something else to get the kids motivated. With funds raised the kids win things and in the past one of the items purchased was the gaga pit for the school. Goals are set and then the kids get something for the school that they want like gym things, i.e. scooters, soccer nets. Kids have recently said they want more scooters for gym.

First, we need to pick a date, usually it is held in late April or early May. We have definitely had it snow once. Also need to think about the format for this year. Last year we did a modified Panther Run, no fundraising, PTC helped the gym teacher, we had balloon towers, popsicles, kids got stickers, was held during every class PE time just so they could have the experience. The regular format for the event is to have everyone come outside to cheer on each other. Races are run by grade so all kids in each grade go at once and are cheered on by the rest of the school. Younger kids can get shy. We need to select a date and decide on what format we want to try for.

Would also like to get back with the t-shirt design contest, where kids work on designs to get selected for what to put on the t-shirt. For a date perhaps Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is also earth day, could lend itself to an easy theme. Have had a problem with conflicts with testing in years prior, so we will need to be aware of that before settling on the date. Usually in January we start reaching out to businesses for sponsorships so we can get their logos on the back of the t-shirt as an incentive for their donation. The hope is to get enough money from business sponsors to cover the cost of the t-shirts for the kids. Think the kids would really like to see the t-shirts come back, has always been a really great positive experience and the kids love it, also very cute. Ms. Lindeen would also like to get Spirit Fridays back at some point for kids to wear their WG gear.

It is very hard to know what will be upon us in April, as of right now it is looking better to see kids and groups of kids together. We kept the kids separate at Halloween. Did they come out per grade or per class? Our cohorts at lunch and recess are by grade level, which is what we did for the Halloween parade. That's how the Panther Run was last year, they stayed in the class spread out and then they were only together by grade level for the run last time we had it in person. Seems like that format could maybe be feasible come April. Option B where all the classes come out together with the exception of the kindergarteners who maybe don't stay out the whole time. We cancelled 2020 and 2021 spring of course. Ms. Lindeen will send us some dates, Christy will talk to PE teacher and see how that is going. Need sponsor letters for teachers. (?) Get with Ms. Henry to get an art contest going for the kids. Need to order t-shirts by March. Banners get hung on the fences and the hallways. Also need to set up the fundraising website and go over that with Ms. A(?) as well. Let's start moving forward and adjust as needed. Kids will like the t-shirts and the contest.

### **Teacher Appreciation**

Anita came up with the idea after our last meeting about setting up a Teacher of the Week award that would recognize all the teachers by giving them gift cards and also have parents send quotes and other ways to give them recognition i.e. include it in the principal newsletters and also on the bulletin boards around school. We have 6 gift cards right now, we need to get more and then need to start working on gathering quotes from the families on each teacher. Are we doing classes together? Both kinder teachers, both 1<sup>st</sup> etc.? Are we starting from the top down or the bottom up? Great idea let's maybe think about it being more random, plan on the calendar to figure out how many weeks we have left and will need to make sure we fit everyone in. We could have Ms. Lindeen do a random draw each week so it is truly random. Send it to classroom parents to move forward with getting quotes for the teachers, including the specials teachers, and other teacher assistants. Ms. Tincher doesn't have a parent rep. It would be sweet to cast a wider net to get more nice quotes from previous students etc. That is special, kids keep an attachment to their teachers. When we are reading these quotes over the announcements, will they be attached to specific names? Leave it up to the parent if they want to include their names or have it be anonymous. Also the option for kids to put in a quote and say their name if they want. Maybe we put together a google form to say something nice about any teacher that you know. That way people could leave messages for all of the teachers or multiple teachers if they want to. Let's make that happen to get things going. We can try and get started over the break for teachers. This is a great idea and will be a nice surprise for the teachers. This will be very uplifting and fun for the teachers. Really very nice, said Ms. Loy. Make sure we include all the educational assistants as well.

Depending on feedback per staff member, but actually giving them paper copies of the notes might be nice. Could get long, or maybe even pick a couple to read aloud, and then print out or share or email others. Are we looking for only restaurants for gift cards? One hair salon, others are all restaurants. Some cafes for coffee would be nice. All are various amounts and various places. Need to see how many we need. Do we want all from one place? Think we could request additional donations. When Christy starts our solicitations for the Panther Run, I have partnered up with winter events in the past and

promote their business if they give a big donation. For example we can include your logo on the t-shirts and website as the promotions go. Let teachers select what gift card they want. Always have them on hand, replenished. Any leftover snowflake drive money?

Continue the conversation on email to find out what else we can do.

Ms. Loy is very grateful, the teachers have been so appreciative of what the PTC is doing for the whole school. Thank you, good to be back and seeing everyone, so nice to feel more engagement. Teachers and the school are very appreciative. Pies were super loved and so appreciated. So amazing! People were so happy and very excited about the pies.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18. Lots to look forward to, thank you! Counting food at 12:30.

### **Open Discussion/New Business**

Until next time...