

Kruse Elementary PTO Meeting Agenda  
November 18th, 2024

Attendees: Kirk, Victoria, Jon, Jen H, Charlene, Sierra, Stephanie, Karrie, Jen K, Becky, Elena, Heather, Anna, Mrs. Chicco

1. Call to Order 6:04pm
2. Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup>- Elena Windsong
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Sierra Miller

Old Business

- c. Staff Appreciation Week-Sierra
    - i Majority wanted moved to national week which is May 5-9, 2025. Plan to ask for donated gift cards earlier- I.e. February 2025. Rochelle and Sierra are working on a plan for volunteers.
  - d. Book fair - Charlene
    - i Sales were relatively equivalent to last year for fall- approximately \$7500 in sales
    - ii \$4000 scholastic dollars which was divided among library, classrooms and other lit related rooms- \$150 went to each to shop at the fair. 57 golden tickets which was three per classroom.
    - iii Should we continue the same schedule going forward? 8-8:30am and 3:30-4:30pm. One morning was very busy and right after school the shoppers would lessen between 4-4:30pm. It was nice to see that the adjustment to the school start time did not affect sales. Most sales were conducted right at drop off or right at pick up.
    - iv Online sales were zero but ended this week- will recheck and see if that number changed. We receive 25% from scholastic sales online vs 50% in person. We also receive a \$200 bonus from things like promoting e-wallet etc. Kirstin will have that extra bonus to spend.
    - v The staff appreciated the lunch that was provided. Lots of positive feedback- preferred over breakfast. Provided lunch by Costco other than a caterer.
    - vi Staff can buy books online, but books are full price, and they must pay for shipping- in person there is typically a discount.
    - vii Can we fix the variety? The availability of advanced books for the older kids was lacking. The pandemic altered scholastics ability to stock and provide product. We normally have 10 cases, and we only had 6 this year.
    - viii Sell merch in the spring, gift cards for staff? Anything else we can do to help diversify the sales?
    - ix April 14-17<sup>th</sup> Spring fair. BOGO is better when it comes to sales, but we do receive more back in the fall.
3. New Business
    - a. Principal's Report- Mr. Samples- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are filling out the Connection survey- a collective view on mental health. Does run 4-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Kindergarten roundup on Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> which we have advertised with flyers to multiple locations. 8-10 people showed up last year, hoping to have more this year. Four more days until fall break. Last week, Kruse was ranked 135<sup>th</sup> in Colorado out of 1400; 9<sup>th</sup> out of 32 schools for PSD. Based on test scores and student population. Connection surveys are shared on the district site. It does allow us to identify students that may be struggling and, in the past, nothing alarming or of concern has stood out from the results.

- b. Connection with adults at school, connection with activities at school I.e does the school have a lot of activities. And there are questions about peers.
  - c. Treasurer's Report- Jen H. – Taxes are filed with IRS- Thank you Clarice
  - d. DAB- Karrie- Discussed the Connection survey; what it is, what the data shows. Kruse was in the top 12 with that survey. Mill Levee passed. Discussed accountability for the Mill Levee funding. There is a committee to help organize and streamline the funding. Plan to invite people via email to join the committee and they are looking to provide equal representation from different school sites. There was a visitor that talked about identification for special education students, how to identify a learner who might need some additional help and the same process for the gifted and talented was discussed. Meeting notes will be available on the district website.
  - e. Staff Appreciation- Sierra/Rochelle- November we had a coffee truck, and the feedback was good. May have other drink trucks in the future. Anthony's Pizza will be donating lunch for the teachers, GF pizzas, salads, regular pizza on December 13<sup>th</sup>. PTO plans to give out staff shirts as holiday gifts. Still need some sizes from ~9 individuals. Sierra can walk anyone through the paperwork if there is a business that would like to donate.
  - f. Giving Tree- Natascha or Sierra- There are 44 families on the list this year; typically, we have numbers in the high 30s. Much more kid focused this year. The spreadsheet is difficult to access via a phone- best to view on a computer. Flyers are helpful- need to go out by Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Everything is due December 6<sup>th</sup>. PTO is December 9<sup>th</sup> and that is the first day of organizing- Sierra and Rochelle are going to finish the shopping and a very generous family covers the funds. (They have in the past). We are using the extra fifth grade classroom to organize and set up the individual holiday gift sets.
  - g. Battle of the Books- Stephanie- Zoom info session a couple of weeks ago; 8 parents showed up and a few emailed who were interested. Currently we are in the mid 50s for the number of students registered. Last day to register is Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. More fifth graders than expected- had to create a 5<sup>th</sup> team for 5ft graders. Still need a coach. Currently buying books for teams- will get receipts. Start timeframe is two weeks before winter break and then once a week starting in Jan. 2025. Concern is that there is a significant break between meetings and districts- can we continue close to districts so students stay engaged?
4. Annual Fundraiser Ideas- Sierra/Anna- Some ideas are a gym mural, rock climbing wall, playground equipment (balls), signs up front needs freshened up, field trips. Plan to send out a sign up genius for ideas and then vote based on that list and budget. Do we fundraise for lots of little thing's vs one large item? Creating a priority list of items that completing those tasks so individuals know where the funds are going.

5. Other Business

6. Wellness club- Going very well even with the earlier time. Each month a grade is choosing an activity. We are working on thank you cards this week and placemats with Mr. Montgomery to donate to Meals on wheels. Meals on wheels has approximately 375 clients. Voted on a shirt, water bottle or hat and the Water bottle won. Thank you cards are being made for people who are donating. Maybe we can do a shoutout on instagram for people who help too?

7. Adjournment 7pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

DC Oaks- December 2nd

PTO Meeting- December- 9th

Staff Appreciation Lunch Provided by Anthony's Pizza- 13th