

Meadow Park Middle School PTO: Meeting Summary

Location: Meadow Park Middle School Library

Date: 10/14/15

Time: 3:45pm-4:45pm

Approximate number in attendance: 13

Meadow Park Middle School Principal: Jared Freeman

Meadow Park Middle School PTO Co-Presidents: Cyndie Pelto and Jennifer Yamashiro

Outdoor School

The outdoor school will occur in March 2016 for either the Vernonia or Salem location. Unfortunately, funding for this activity has been reduced. As a result, the number of days/nights has been reduced from 4 days/3 nights to 3 days/2 nights. In order to make sure all children who would like to participate are able, the Outdoor School might need \$1300 from the PTO. Steven Lytle will help coordinate. The PTO will also be called upon for assistance with the following possible tasks:

1. Provision of boots, coats, sleeping bags, rain gear for children in need.
2. Help load the kids on the buses on the day of departure. Will need approximately 16 volunteers to arrive around 8:50am to help with this.
3. Look at the expense of transportation. Look into chartering buses for student transport, which might be more affordable than using district buses.
4. Depending upon the buses acquired there might not be enough room for luggage storage. Jennifer Yamashiro has access to a large trailer that might be available to use for transport of student outdoor items and any other equipment.

Jog-A-Thon

Last year this time, \$11K was raised. This year a total of about \$8K has been raised. The following suggestions were made to improve next year's jog-a-thon:

1. Promote jog-a-thon individual and group prizes
2. MYP design and perhaps other classes can be involved with the creation of promotional materials
3. Instead of scheduling over 2-days, perhaps it is possible to make it more of a 1-day field day type of event that would include more of a festive feel, with Jamba juice, DJ, jumpy fun events, etc.
4. Better inform teachers about jog-a-thon and as a result they could remind students, encourage students to donate and promote.
5. Display a fundraising thermometer to show goal and \$ raised on a visible bulletin board.
6. Create and promote competition (most money raised, most laps run by class by grade, most laps run by girl/boy by grade, etc.). Post competition progress on a visible bulletin board.
7. Consider moving jog-a-thon to end of October and incorporate a Halloween theme.
8. Next year during Eagle Days, have laptops available for parents to register via Pledge Star
9. Better communication to our Spanish speaking families about the voluntary nature of this fundraising endeavor

Planning will begin for the next Jog-a-thon in August 2016.

PTO Website (<http://www.meadowparkpto.com/>)

The new PTO website is now up and running. Word is getting out to parents about the website through the weekly email blasts. Approximately 50% of all Meadow Park parents receive these blasts.

Perhaps distribute flyers to promote website.

PTO Vice President NEEDED

Jennifer Yamashiro is currently performing the tasks required of both the PTO co-president and vice president. She needs someone ASAP to take over this VP position. Most of the VP work is done in July and August.

The VP position consists of the following tasks:

1. Coordinate cafeteria volunteers
2. Coordinate production volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator NEEDED

This position is currently vacant; although, again Jennifer Yamashiro has tried to manage this position along with her others. Position duties include:

1. Assure volunteer committees are up and running
2. Assure there are provisions for volunteer's who serve as back-ups when someone cannot make it in.
3. Learn volunteer tracking software

Other Business

- If non-summa students are interested in participating in the science fair, a HS local student has won a grant to assist MP students. Flyers were distributed. For more information please contact Kynah Atwood (room A13)
- A new system for volunteer registration will be in place in the future. All volunteers will need to re-register.
- If there are grants that teachers are interested in applying for, please contact Jennifer Yamashiro (meadowparkeaglespto@gmail.com). The PTO can assist with finding volunteer parents willing and able to help with grant writing.
- In previous years, there has been a brief Spanish language translated meeting (~30min) for parents on Back to School night. For next year, consider bringing this gathering back and at that meeting have a brief overview of the PTO and jog-a-thon.
- 8th grade party coordination materials were handed over to Jennifer Yamashiro, who is this year's planner. Last year there was 1 dinner night out fundraiser and funds raised from the sale of popcorn (popcorn Friday at school and popcorn at band concerts) were enough to cover the expense of the party.
- Bring back the PE Dance Competition to Meadow Park
 - When: Thursday, December 17th and Friday, December 18th

- Competition format (participants wear #'s)
- DJ
- This competition will represent the culmination of a 3 week PE unit to teach kids how to dance (i.e. Swing, cha cha, etc.)
- In year's past the 8th graders have been the primary participants
- Leslie Seward (PTO co-treasurer) will help coordinate

- Clarification was provided on student cell phone usage during school hours.
 - Students are allowed to use cell phones during lunch hours.
 - Cell phones use is restricted during all other times.
 - There is a protocol in place to deal with students who consistently use their cell phones during restricted hours.
 - Staff has observed that if students are allowed to use their cell phones during lunch, they are less likely to use during restricted hours.

PTO Secretary and recorder of this summary: Jenna Kivanc