

GEMS PTO Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2014

6:30 pm GEMS Library

Call to Order

-called to order at 6:31 pm

-September 15th Minutes not present so no approval

Principal's Report

-Stuff the Bus was a huge success. GEMS collected 1400 items and literally stuffed the bus with 80 student ambassadors carrying the items onto a school bus on October 17th. We had the most for the district but only elementary schools receive the assembly. Teachers Bass, Napier, and Williams receive recognition for the most collected.

-Mrs. Crowe is in "Safety Blitz" with the kids in recent weeks. High level of safety reminders. Students hear on the announcements and are reminded daily not to let anyone in the building. All visitors should enter through the main entrance. Safety walk thrus will be conducted.

-Box Top Collection Challenge this coming week (Oct. 20-24)

-Mrs. Crowe put in for \$4,000 grant with Sam's Club to help fund WEB Program.

-Technology Tuesdays for teachers has started. Teachers choose training sessions for professional development.

-Wed, Oct. 22 is National Bully Unity Day—wear orange.

-Friday, Oct. 24 is wear red for Red Ribbon Week. Using the "Natural High Campaign" this year to teach drug prevention.

-Mix It Up Lunch Day next Tuesday, Oct. 28th. Students can wear costumes.

-Upstanders Rally will be on the news this year.

-Kindness Quotes have been on announcements. School is working hard to prevent bullying and promote acceptance.

-1st Popcorn with the Principal took place on Friday, Oct. 17th. 80% of kids reported no bullying at GEMS. Others reported some issues on bus or hallway but nothing major. Teaming seems to be a big contributor to this improvement. Kids seem to understand they are responsible for the climate and culture of the school.

President's Report

-Harvest Dance has been moved to November 14. Tickets will be \$5

-Kids Care Club meets for the first time this Friday, Oct. 24th.

-Beautification Committee (new committee) will meet soon. Bards Nursery will advise on landscaping projects.

-Coin War against Amelia Middle will likely take place the last week of January. Mrs. Crowe will get into contact with AMS principal to set in stone.

-Purple Pantry items still needed. Thoughts were discussed on how to best meet the needs of the 11 families we now sponsor. Perhaps get families to adopt a family and shop for them when they shop for themselves. Mrs. Jeffcott and Mrs. Taylor thought it might be good to have homerooms adopt a family. Adds to the climate of the building "We take care of each other at GEMS". Decisions will be made on this.

-Holiday Raffle is ready to start. Tickets are printed and look great. Envelopes are being printed. Kicks off Oct. 29th. Discussed logistics of how it will work:

1. Students sell to family and close friends/neighbors.—honor system.
2. Fill out envelope with number of tickets needed and enclose money.
3. PTO sends tickets home with students (possibly PTO will write in the names on tickets and keep the stub, to ensure those paid are in the raffle).
4. Students give tickets to those who paid.

-Looking into some Early Bird Turn in Dates with prize incentives (air heads). Julie Dunning will call the Van Melle Factory in Northern KY to see if they will donate Air Heads. 360 to 1,000 needed.

-72 envelopes will be used for teachers to turn in student envelopes. This way we have two envelopes for the 36 Advisory Classes. So teachers can turn in daily and PTO has time to count and fill orders.

Treasurer's Report

-We are in pretty good shape financially.

-2 teacher requests have been filled to date: Scope Magazine Subscriptions and Scholastic News Magazine Subscriptions.

-New teacher request was presented by Lisa Wood for Mrs. Hufford and Mrs. Manker (not in attendance). Request was for 3 subscriptions to New York Times. Purpose is for student debate, opinion writing, and informational text reading. Those in attendance voted and approved the request.

New Business

-School Board Meeting October 28th

-8th Grade Washington DC Trip informational meeting is October 27. Trip is scheduled for April 8-11 (during Spring Break).

Adjourn 7:34 pm

