Morey PTO Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2018

6:00 PM

BeMindful gave an overview of their program, will send their presentation to FOM to distribute to parents. Recommended apps to promote mindfulness: Stop, Breathe, Think and Insight Timer.

[www.bemindful.us.org](http://www.bemindful.us.org)

***PTO Overview/Introductions***

3 officers – Andrea Wilkins President, Charlotte White Secretary, Sarah Knapp Treasurer. No membership dues, etc, just show up, volunteer, be engaged, etc. Currently no sub groups, would love a fundraising chair.

***PTO Activities***

Back to School Giving Campaign - Not a success. $0. Discussion re how promoted (personal distribution at school registration and back to school bbq, email blasts, re-occurring publication in school newsletter, posting on school Facebook page). Despite efforts to promote, many were still unaware. May have been due to people not knowing in detail what the $ was going towards, how much was needed.

Parent/Staff Happy Hour at Mezcal – well attended, everyone had fun.

Dine Out Event/Fundraiser – discussed that nights at Chipotle, Pizzeria Locale, etc, will be set up. No volunteer at this time to take point with this.

***Treasurer’s Report***

Review and discussion of current budget.

In general, still riding the buffer accumulated a few years ago so even though our expense is greater than expected income, plan to leave around $15k cushion for next year.

Main call outs for expense - $20k for literacy paraprofessional, $1900 welcome mat, $3500 Spring Discovery days. Reminder to teachers we have $1500 in teacher grants available. Reimbursement forms in the office.

Income – Fillmore parking events are picking up, brain storm fundraising ideas.

***Fundraising***

Small school, traditional fundraisers haven’t been successful in recent years.

Need to look into grants, business underwriting/sponsorship… can we do signage? Sara Reynolds/Matt Jordan taking lead with this.

How can we engage students in fundraising?

Staples offer teacher discounts. Do they provide school donations too?

***Principal’s Report/ Brainstorming for Community-Building Activities***

Enrollment is at 320, up from 295 projected. If we’d hit 325 we would’ve had to give $70k back to district, so ideal size.

80% of students are from outside of Morey boundary, which can lead to lack of parent engagement.

Need more paras. If we fundraised an additional $60k Morey could have 10 paras total. At a minimum need the $20k again next year for the literacy para.

If we can’t bring in $, need to bring in more volunteers.

After school clubs – need parents to lead. Discussion re following a curriculum, being free/minimal cost.

Parent to lead Student Council – Mai-Lan Huynh volunteered

Parents to bring “experiences” into classrooms. A talent/skill, interesting job, etc.

Community partnerships - how bring community experts into classroom? Not just businesses. Cold call, send letters, etc..... does anyone have example letters?

Campus cleanup/beautification- donate a Saturday, clean up the landscaping/buy some new plants. Need someone to look at the area and come up with ideas.

Lock In - leadership development, break out rooms, overnight sleepover. A Morey parent organized two years ago and it was very successful. can we do it again? Ask Rebecca what/how she planned it.

Challenge day, aka my DNA day... kids engage with each other using guided practices, get to know each other better, share experiences. Sarah to find out formula from other schools that have done this.

Ms Niebauer to consolidate requests and include write-ups/calls for volunteers in her weekly newsletter. FOM to send out the same information.

***General Discussion***

Would room parents be helpful in advisory? Yes. Need to coordinate volunteers – Jen Zeniga taking point, needs explicit expectations so we know what to ask for

Teachers should be leveraging Donors Choose. Anne Spires DeLong to research/send out write up.

Library assistance – parent volunteers will ease burden on teachers. Anne Spires DeLong looking into library system, Kim Collie assist.

Question about group gifts for teachers.. per DPS policy $ gifts have to be from individuals. Jen Zeniga double checking this.

How do we raise awareness of Morey’s unique syllabus? Use famous alumni to our advantage?

Provide a write-up for Mensa newsletter – the school, our programs, etc. Ms Arnold is a Mensa coordinator for gifted youth.

Reminder if volunteering around kids, need to complete background check every 3 years.

Sara Reynolds would like to do Gift Card drive again this year for Morey families in need. Last year raised $550, PTO covered the paypal fees but otherwise passthrough from a budget perspective. Sara to check paypal link working and send write-up to distribute.