

FJH PTO Meeting Minutes 11/5

Attendance

Libby Sims
Kristen Westerfield
Alicia Wilson
Diane Freeman
Leah Direkly
Trisha Bailey
Shannon Stanford
Dana Drew
Jen Wilderman
Amber Pugsley
Brandee Fernandez
Alix Attaway
Lia Nguyen
Toni Whitworth

Kristen called the meeting to order at 9:38.

Guest Speaker- Shanna Kirkpatrick (FEF)- Power Point- Mission of FEF, purpose of grants (70% of what FEF does)- authentic learning experiences in Fisd,
19-20 FEF funded 80 grants
20-21 \$15,000 to spend on different campuses (FJH was used in MMC) those enhancements are engraving machine, 3D printer- that MMC has about \$100,000 in upgrades currently with more coming
Grant timeline- teachers have applied, gone to principals for review, go on sale on Giving Tuesday for the public to buy. On sale until March 11, will be available during Gala, ends with the surprise patrol when teachers find out that their grant was funded
Grant Champions- on each campus and are here to help teachers with grant writing, answer questions and be mentors
Grants in action- seeing the grants on campuses
Simulated ambulance- [Carla Burris](#) UTMB purchased for \$50K, students can have hands on experience for becoming an EMT
Carla Stinson Rocketry program at the high school
Student grant committees- getting kids involved in decision making about the grants, comes from the Mustang Association with FEF, students will get to be a part of the process of giving something back to their campuses
GiveBacks- Shop-A-Thon, Gina's, La Escondida,
Events- Gala (2/12), New Employee Luncheon (August), Sporting Clays (10/7),
Ways to get involved- follow on social media, adopt-a-grant, sponsor things for events, door prizes, participate in events, annual givebacks, visit companies participating in giveback companies

Grants- make great christmas gifts, bday, valentines, 100% tax deductible, no \$50 limit on grants, great way to show teachers we care

Mr Drew- the junior high was the first to have the PTO put aside money for grants- 10% was suggested when this was starting 8 or so years ago

Question to Mr. Drew- are there certain grants the campus has been wanting? Mr Drew said he leaves that up to the PTO.

Question to Mr Drew- have you seen a certain area that the staff here has been focusing on for grants? No, not necessarily.

A point was made that the younger campuses usually have all of their grants funded by parents. The older campuses usually don't- that is where the PTO and FEF steps in.

Mr Drew's report- Grateful for the amount of support from the PTO. Volleyball and football are done on campus. Basketball is starting- causes lots of nerves. Volleyball was district champions. Theater- just finished their play- Hotel Escargo. 6th grade is starting one in a few weeks. A couple of weeks ago Bay Area Alliance hosted a coffee. Another one is in a few weeks- titled, "You're Killing Me, Smalls- Guiding Tweens Through the Beast of Junior High". Come if you can. These kids struggle in so many situations, we want everyone to understand their role. Biggest struggle is peer pressure. Mr Drew would like for parents to spend some time teaching their kid what to say when they are faced with peer pressure. Give them an out or an excuse they can say when faced with peer pressure. Next coffee talk is about social media. Question to Mr. Drew- Why do campuses have different policies about having parents on campus? Windsong allows, but FJH doesn't. Is it security purposes or covid? It's covid. Why are kids still sitting 6 ft apart at lunch when other campuses are not? The lunch room was previously so crowded. The schedule with lunch with impact seems to run so much smoother than what was in place before. So it has been kept for now. Feedback from a parent was given- it makes it hard for interactions between students, especially for new students or students who are shy. Suggestion was given to that parent to go to the counselor to make staff aware. Admin can watch and see what the situation is. Maybe that student is surrounded by students who bring their phones in the cafeteria.

Question to Mr. Drew- Any talk of going back to limiting phone usage on campus? Yes, admin is making both student and parent committees to discuss these types of issues to see how our community feels. Parent committee will come up with a plan and send it to the site committee (teachers and community members). If approved, it will go to the board.

Approval of minutes- Alix Attaway approved, Jen Wilderman second. Minutes approved

Treasurers report- Libby Sims- 7/8 social and grams both had huge profits- \$12K, \$4K each, net \$8K, \$2K. How are we doing- check coming in from Inked. We had to do a \$500 deposit to city for use of the park for 6th grade social. Everything is going in the right direction. A few less school supplies sold this year than last.

Candy Gram question- mobile way to pay? Venmo? Internet issues are huge. And we need a board member that doesn't already have venmo to host it for the PTO. It needs to be a board decision.

A question was brought up- Where is information posted besides social media? The PTO website is sparse for information. Answer- Everything that gets posted on FB is posted on website. There is a calendar tab, birthdays, news, etc.

If you did not buy a yearbook with registration and still want to, try going to Skyward, fee management, add a fee.

Committee reports-

7th and 8th grade socials- was a huge success!

Teacher birthdays- going well- thanks for sharing the sign up link. The table is full! Last month the food ran out. But there is a lot of food this month!

Spirit Store- holiday shopping store will be set up. Information will be sent on social media.

Please like, share, etc to spread the word. December will have two days of spirit store. Planning on the first day as a preview day, then the buy day. Can a QR code be made for the store? Yes

Grams- were huge- went by what was bought in the past, and income numbers from the past.

Had to go back to Sam's multiple times and they still bought more than expected. Christmas will be a little different- two days instead of 3 but will have parent sponsorships. Parents can sponsor an impact class. To try to get every kid a gram for Christmas. Wednesday and Thurs, December grams.

Spirit Night- Waiting for Stefano's check

December teacher birthdays during teacher luncheon December (15th). So we won't have one. December birthdays will be recognized during the January teacher birthday.

Upcoming Dates:

Candy grams- Distributed 12/3

Teacher luncheon- 12/15

Adjourned at 10:50