

1st General PTO Meeting at JC Booth - Minutes from September 14th, 2020

Location: The Gym at JC Booth Middle School

Attendees: Shannon Sylvester, Angie Keisling, Susan de la Cruz, Christine Shanus, Misty Ottenberg, Grainne Flanagan, Mr. Greene, and 12 general PTO members.

Welcome by Shannon Sylvester (President)

- Welcome and Introduction of Mr. Greene

Mr Greene

- Spoke about Ms. Ivey and her role, and if any parents had any questions regarding scheduling, they should reach out to Ms. Ivey.
- Mr. Greene made apologies for her absence and explained that he had told her to go home for a family event that evening
- The Hybrid model isn't perfect, but it is better than nothing.
- JC Booth has had two kids who caught the Covid-19 virus outside of and before the school year started. There have been two other students since the semester started and with contact tracing only 3 other students had to quarantine.
- If the school was on green that 3 in quarantine could easily have been 30.
- Mr. Greene is more concerned about the quarantining and what the effect it will have on teachers having to take time off.
- The district is looking to bring all the kids back.
- Hand sanitizing and disinfecting will still go ahead regardless of distance between pupils.
- Keep children home if your child feels unwell. Please do not give them medication and send them to school.
- Curriculum wise – everyone is not the same. When Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods statement on testing was published Mr. Greene highlighted that section and sent it to the staff. The focus at present is on teaching not testing.
- Staff still meet by zoom for large meetings while smaller groups can be in person.
- Designing lessons 2 days in person and 3 days virtual, the staff would like to be back.
- Transportation has been great. With fewer kids transportation is on time.
- A Schedule bus routes are full whereas B students take more cars. Of the 1200 students at Booth, 290 went virtual. There would be fewer than 900 in the building when they go Green. Class sizes are the same, but the halls are emptier.
- If on Green students will continue to eat in their classrooms – smaller groups. Half of the cafeteria is being used for orchestra.
- Students are cleaner in the classrooms, so this will stay in place.
- Mr. Greene showed pictures of the news school being built. It is modeled after Bennett's Mill.
- Bus loop and track are in place. Carriage lane into bus loop is paved.
- Hope to be moved into the new school in January 2022.
- Mr. Greene handed back to Shannon

Shannon

- During the pandemic the main PTO meeting got cancelled and so the new members will be voted in tonight.
 - Shannon Sylvester is staying on as President
 - Angie Keisling is staying on as VP,
 - Christine Shanus is joining as VP,
 - Misty Ottenberg is staying on as Treasurer,
 - Grainne Flanagan is joining as Recording Secretary
 - Susan de la Cruz is staying on as Corresponding Secretary
- Shannon asked if someone wanted to propose the motion to approve the slate for the executive board
 - Cindy Kysliger proposed the motion
 - Terry Brosnan seconded
 - Motion Passed
- Shannon handed over to Misty to discuss the budget which is shown on the projector screen

Misty

- PTO dues are down this year. 13k to 6.5k at present. PTO aiming for 8k.
- Need to support the teachers for the classroom with things they need. (**Appropriations**)
- One thing really different aside from dues is the **8th Grade Celebration Dance** as well as the **8th Grade Party**. More formal as an acknowledgement of their graduation.
- **Spirit night** to support business and PTO to be added.
- **Teacher Appreciation and Hospitality**- numbers for this have increased as no homemade baked goods can be brought in. Everything has to be bought.
- Normally Appropriations is 10k a year for the needs of the staff, such as licenses for programs such as IXL. Misty Proposed that this 10k is approved at this meeting and that the budget be accepted.
 - Cindy Kysliger proposed the motion
 - Melissa Phillips seconded
 - Motion Passed
- Previous Treasurers left a nest egg of 50k. Appropriations usually come from the budget, however as the dues are down this year Misty proposed that the 10k comes from the nest egg instead of the income and current budget.
 - Cindy Kysliger proposed the motion
 - Melissa Phillips seconded
 - Motion Passed
- Now 55k is down to 45k. Mr. Greene would like to lease some stand-alone water fountains. These are contactless. The 7th Grade pod has some as it is renovated yet the other parts of the school do not have them. Misty suggested giving Mr. Greene 10k for the other water fountains around the school as well as other safety and sanitization purposes needed through this year.
- Mr. Greene said that water is being drunk a lot by the students.

- Misty asked the meeting if they were okay to go from 45k to 35k of a nest egg after giving 10k to Mr. Greene for safety and sanitation and Misty proposed the donation.
 - Cindy Kyslinger proposed the motion
 - Melissa Phillips seconded
 - Motion Passed
- **Donut Sales** were a big fundraiser, but they cannot do that this year. A new venture therefore would be on October 23rd there will be a Golf Cart drive-in movie complete with social distancing. Students get to vote on the movie shown.
- Instead of donuts sales an individually wrapped item sales is being looked at. Use twizzlers, twinkies, etc.
- **TCBY sales** are on hold at present. Hard to get volunteers into the school since it shut down.
- If anyone has any new ideas, please email them to the PTO.
- **Spirit nights** - What restaurants would you like? Want to try hard to keep the spirit going.
- **Volunteer sheet** – Fill it out, although many events may not happen ‘til the new year.
- **Book Fair** – not sure how it will happen, if at all this year.

Questions from the Floor

1. What are mask breaks like?

- Mr. Greene – no regularly scheduled mask breaks. Some teachers take the kids for a loop around the track.
- **Thermal Scanners** have been installed. They are hooked up to Mr. Greene’s phone and computer, as well as Ms. Seabolt’s and Nurse Wannamaker’s too.
- The scanners are in the lobby by the office – catch the 8th Graders and any visitors to the school as well as all staff.
- One is in the 7th Grade pod
- A third is in the cafeteria to catch 6th Graders.
- Last week one got 28 hits after a class had been outside in the heat. Mr. Greene contacted the teacher and asked that instead of heading back to class to come directly with the kids to the front office to see if they cooled down. They did, so he was happy it was just the effect of the sun.
- The scanners also show if a person is wearing a mask or not.

2. How easy is it for 6th Graders to make friends?

- Making friends, especially in 6th Grade is difficult at present, especially for those in virtual.

3. How easy is it to learn Schoology?

- The students in the school are learning how to use and navigate it however it is very difficult to teach the students on virtual how to navigate it.
- If the Schoology page looks difficult use the calendar.
- **Calendar** - If something is on a slide or assigned through Schoology it appears in the calendar.
- When on blackboard they know the kids knew how to use it, and the students couldn’t email the teacher from blackboard.
- Yes, a few teachers are not on the Schoology system, but Schoology has help tickets and this can be raised.

- If enough school systems do this then changes can happen.
- Mr. Greene said that parents struggling to get through to teachers can also email him directly and he will help.
- The benefit of signing in as a parent, you can see what the student has submitted.
- A Teacher's version of a student's view is different to the actual students view.
- Mr. Greene's view is different to teachers.
- Lady suggesting using Google Classroom.
- Infinite Campus only does so much and its complicated, the school is not there at present to import all grades into IC.
- **Updates** - When an update happens in Schoology you can't see what the update is. Updates are actually an announcement. It is a reference to say what the announcement is. If you set your landing page to Announcements – which is a course, that will help.
- **High School** is using Infinite Campus
- **Middle School** is using Schoology.
- In middle school Infinite Campus is the sharing of information for the state.
- Schoology is the Grade Book.
- **Syncing** is not a real sync. As it just dumps everything and then teachers must manually input the info into classes.
- **Fail Mails** are still Infinite Campus but next year maybe on Schoology too.

Curriculum Night

- Every Monday at the staff meeting it is discussed.
- At present they are not sure.
- Every team may do a video to explain the course and curriculum night may happen that way this year.
- Outside people coming into the school is not happening at present. A man's basketball team asked to use the gym as a venue, and they were told no. The school is keeping extra people away in order to keep the school safe.
- 6th Grade Meet The Teacher worked but it's too complicated to do that for all three Grades and all of the teams.

Spot Prizes

Shannon collected the bowl with the attendees' names within. Spot Prizes were then distributed to names drawn from the bowl.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was closed and adjourned with the premise that if anyone thought of other questions then please do email them to the PTO.