Bettie Weaver PTA

**August 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Date, Time and Location**: Wednesday, August 12 9, 2020 @ 6:30 PM via Zoom

**Meeting called to order by**: President, John Witherspoon @ 6:35 PM

**Purpose**: Monthly PTA Meeting

**2020-21 Budget Discussion: John:**

* Budget is almost a carbon copy of last year since we are operating in such a crazy time. Not sure what operating costs to expect or anticipate at this time; So much is unknown.
* We have some surplus from last year; comfortable going into next year.
* Funded PACE for 3 years so don’t need to worry about a donation drive to fund PACE.
* PACE is a supplemental scholarship for teachers to apply to – broken into 2 sections: subscriptions and experiential.

**PACE Discussion: Principal Riley and Vice Principal Whaley:**

* Suggestions for virtual teaching from teachers:
  + Tripods for iphone for videos to see the teacher from farther away, more like what you see in the classroom rather than just up close on Chromebook video.
  + Teachers are looking into other solutions to figure out how to present
    - Michelle Heisler agreed and reinforced the need for more creative resources to teach. She also suggested getting blue light glasses for teachers to help with the headaches.
    - Kim Logan asked for potentially a 2nd monitor and connector pieces so they can see their students while they’re presenting on the Chromebook. Riley confirmed they have plenty of extra monitors at school already but might need to order connector pieces. Amanda Beerden said she may have some cords she can donate for monitors.
* John confirmed those are valid requests.
* Amanda Beerden suggested document cameras that integrate with your computer, gorilla tripod, or a swivel robot that tracks the teacher in the room (expensive).
* Riley requested baseball themed Tshirts for staff:
  + John: PTA executive board opted not to do this now since there is so much unknown in regards to other expenses, and what support the teachers and school may need.

**2020-21 Budget Review: John:**

* “Classroom supplies”
  + John confirmed this is still in the budget and he and Jackie O’Connell are working on plans for teacher work week - $50 Target gift cards were given to teachers from PTA last year
  + Riley requested Amazon
* “Fundraising”
  + Amanda explained some carryover from previous year; we have another $33k that will carryover the next 2 years for PACE expenses.
  + Reduced budget by about $60k due to no gala/carnival
  + Self-funded programs are money in, money out so it’s a wash
* John: Any questions?
  + Whaley: is there a principal discretionary fund that Robin can use to supplement expenses?
  + Amanda: there are funds in staff appreciation
  + Riley: Explain Recycling? Amanda: The money in is from Clothes to Cash goes to line item for money in, money out is the actual recycling expense. So it’s a wash
  + Kim Logan: will people still pay membership dues? John: It’s only $3.25 for PTA state and national dues. We reduced fees last year and 100% membership is our goal. PT Board breaks it out into line items so it’s transparent.
  + John: We don’t want to charge activity fees when there are no activities and class parties, etc. Thoughts and opinions? Michelle Heisler: Agreed, maybe if we are back mid-year it will be more appropriate to charge a smaller fee.
  + Carrie: Will we still have room parents? I agree with holding off on activity fees, but there is still valid reason for at least one room parent to help with birthday gifts, holidays and other special things. Riley: I agree. Sometimes there are communications that are helpful but the staff can’t send so room parents can send the info. Good to have that alternate line of communication. John agreed.

**Vote to approve 2020-21 Budget: John**

Is there a motion to approve? [Colleen Quattlebaum] Second? [Kim Logan].

2020-21 Budget is approved.

**Principal Update: Robin Riley**

I appreciate the support, there have been a lot of questions and much of which is out of our control, depending on county decisions or communication, but in full disclosure, some of our communication could have been disseminated sooner than we did. Thanks for your patience.

Return to Learn plan

* From school board meeting last night
* Includes health metrics, phases of students
* We will share FAQ and that info ASAP, waiting on info from Tim Bullis and then we will share.

Teacher placements

* Nearly impossible to accommodate all requests.
* Our goal is in-person and would rather not move kids classes around, so we are building classes that we think will work well virtually and in person.

Evening Office Hours/Homework Help

* Figuring out how to manage some evening hours from teachers to help students in the evening that need that.

We need to be flexible as we learn and grow. We are focusing on need rather than preference at this time and we will learn how our kids interact and what they need as the year progresses and we will continue to get feedback and adjust as needed. Thanks for all your words of encouragement.

**Additional Items**

* Kindergartners:
  + Ailar: Will Kindergartners be able to meet teachers face to face?
  + Riley: Not allowed to have students in the building, but we are trying to think of how we can be creative and let the kids see their teachers, maybe like a reverse parade of some sort. We are working on those logistics now.
  + Ailar: If I realize a few weeks in that school is not working out for my kindergartener, can I pull her mid-year?
  + Riley: First make sure you reach out to her teacher or myself or Mrs. Whaley so you have all the support and info you need to make that decision. Kindergarteners can defer a year so that is an option.
  + Amanda Beerden: Reach out to Mrs. Beckert, the school counselor. She is a great resource.
* Staffing:
  + Colleen: Where are we with staffing and how many positions are open, I know we’ve had quite a bit of unexpected turnover lately.
  + Riley and Whaley: We’ve some great teachers and we are looking closely at the candidate pool and interviewing regularly.
  + Kelly Andreycak: Is backup plan to put more kids in a class if we aren’t staffed up?
  + Riley: We could put a few more kids in a class while we continue to search for the right candidates, instead of getting a long term sub. No class will be over 26, even in that scenario.
  + Amanda: If we are back in person without enough staff, our classes will be overcrowded and can’t distance. That survey on Parent Vue made it sound like we are binded to our decision.
  + Riley: County is working on a video with guidance and what it will look like to share and help everyone understand what it will or should look like. Teacher work week – teachers are coming in and setting up their classrooms as if they will be here in person teaching so they are ready to return to learn.
  + Whaley: We understand what is required and the county
  + Riley/Whaley: call and email us. We are not withholding any info and can talk through scenarios.
* Playground equipment not open:
  + Allison Krumpe: Is this decision on a school or county level and can we help clean equipment? Can we create a sub-committee to figure out how to allow the playground
  + Riley: the guidance I’ve received is that the kids cannot play on the playground but there will be recess, but the playground is not an option due to social distancing more than for cleaning purposes. It’s a risk management expectation set by the school board and I don’t have authority. We are thinking about what we can do at recess and what we can provide for movement and activity outside.
  + Whaley: We can set up a group to be a recess committee to help us brainstorm those ideas.
* Movement:
  + Kelly Andreycak: Virtual schedule shows no movement breaks over 1st grade.
  + Riley: that is our schedule and it is final, but teachers are getting creative with ways to get the kids moving while learning. Similar to our in person school day – it doesn’t include movement breaks but clearly they have bathroom breaks, wellness time, games, stretch breaks, etc
  + Michelle Heisler: teachers are thinking of how to incorporate movement with GoNoodle and other activities that tie into learning, not just sitting at the computer the whole time.
  + Whaley: teachers are organically already doing this in all of their teaching so they are used to the kids (and the teachers) needing to move.
* Home Learning Kits:
  + Riley: We are working on a list of things you can have on-hand to do or music to listen to, or ideas to give them a mental break, transition to and from lunch and resource, etc.
  + Allison Krumpe: Parade to start school?
  + Riley: Working on it… Maybe more like a grade level supply pick up (home learning kits), teacher introduction.
* Computer repair:
  + Ailar: if computer is broken, can’t get online, what do you do?
  + Riley: you’ll drop it off and they will immediately give you a replacement.

**Vote to approve meeting minutes from June 9, 2020**

Seeing no additions or changes to the June minutes, the minutes for June are approved.

**Meeting adjourned @8:02 PM**