

**Daisy Elementary PTO
General Meeting Minutes**

Date: 10/13/21 (First meeting for 2021-22 year)

Time: 7pm

Location: Daisy Ingraham Cafeteria (in person) & Google Meet (virtual) hybrid meeting

**Meeting called to order by Tovah Vincent
at 7:03pm**

Attendance:

Abby Fredrickson
Abigail Rice
Allison Pluck
Alyssa Lindquist
Cassandra Morrison
Colleen Bloom
Corey Ehrlich
Daniel Frame
Elizabeth Cleveland
Elizabeth Hayes
Jen Pernal
Jodie Oshana
Kelly Donley
Kirsten Freer
Krystle Jochim
Laura Furcolo
Laurie Kukta
Leslie Fuchs
Meridith Werner
Nicole LaSota
Ruth Rose
Shantel Berg
Stephanie Merriman
Tommy Greaves
Victoria Reynolds

President Tovah Vincent: Welcome & Executive Board Introduction

The President's report was given.

- Pavers awaiting engraving; no date on completion as of yet.
- Several events/volunteer functions did not happen this year due to restrictions but will revisit next year.

- Always looking for new members and chairs so please reach out. Also looking for room parents; sign up at the bottom of the membership form.
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSSdvOIT8c1i_GjEUAQ1IWJ1AqowTGlp_Cys2QCMoRAHBBHQ/viewform?usp=sf_link
 - The following teachers are still in need of volunteers:
 - Kayla Bartolomeo
 - Lori Freeman
 - Laurie Kukta
 - Stephanie Merriman
 - Theresa Paulsen
 - Victoria Reynolds
 - Abigail Rice
 - Jeffrey Sullivan
 - Stephen Trojan

Treasurer Jenn Fineza: Treasurer's report read and posted to chat.

- Ending balance of \$9,326 as of 10/13/21
- Several events remain on budget despite being unlikely to occur
- Pavers income is not reflective of cost of engraving
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14tfDm63biliGxb8nHon3UnbdhYBEY55fbgQuYkkDvCs/edit?usp=sharing>

Secretary Krystle Jochim: Secretary's report from 6/2/21 was posted to chat and accepted.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11DgWeL3wJ4XqGaAz0fFNEOZaIAvkUbchpGr0mD83QRQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Committee Reports (name of speaker, summary of business discussed).

- Bike/Walk to school is still being discussed for Fall
 - Chairs: Elise & Alyssa
 - Meet in center of town (Ted Lane) at prescribed time and walk/ride from there to Daisy.
 - Staff/Police/Parents will assist with crossing streets.
 - Ruth to reach out to Elise/Alyssa if a go; alternatively plan for spring.
- Online Fundraising
 - Chair: **Meredith** Werner
 - Amazon Smile link will be on PTO and Facebook page
 - Last quarter made over \$100
 - It was suggested that a flier be made and distributed regarding this to include the link.
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1303428>
 - Charleston Wrap fliers have gone out.

- Purchase wrapping paper, food, etc. and have it delivered to your door.
- Book fair is 10/25 - 10/28
 - Chairs: Krystle Jochim & **Kirsten** Freer
 - Kids will shop in person however family night will not occur.
 - Scholarships will be available for those who need it; alternatively fundraising will be occurring to support the scholarships. There will be an area at the bottom of the book fair form to make scholarship donations.
 - No theme this year; secret characters instead!
- Sunshine committee's next thing is the Thanksgiving Bread
 - Chairs: **Laura** Furcolo & Krystle Jochim
 - Traditionally homemade by volunteers so a sign up genius will be going around soon for bakers.
 - Will either deliver the breads directly to the teachers class (as previously done) or will have in front to give out.
- Newsletter being prepped to go out soon
 - Chair: **Cassie** Morrison
 - Email PTO or Cassie if you have ideas for the newsletter. We'd like to get that together in the next few weeks.
- Holiday Fair
 - Chairs: **Jodie** Oshana & Alyssa Linquist
 - Traditionally kids shop for gifts to give to family and volunteers wrap the items.
 - May or may not look that way this year:
 - Last year crafts were done. Other alternatives are being discussed.
 - If occurring this year, volunteers would need to be masked, distanced, and be able to provide proof of full vaccination.

Superintendent Report: Kristina Martineau

- No formal report however informed the group of a few items:
 - Portrait of graduate
 - The Community Coalition could speak to this at a later date.
 - Budget is even and meetings are ongoing
 - Staffing being discussed including any reductions.
 - New requests from building departments are being considered
 - The feasibility of air conditioning was one thing brought up as being investigated for all school levels.
 - Dr. Martineau expressed that she would like to share the progress on the budget at workshops ahead of time.
 - Two in December, one in January
 - Big presentation in January and vote in February
 - More information online under the BOE meeting, enclosures
 - Staffing has posed issues (long term subs, short term subs, paras, bus drivers)

- In the short term extra duties are being taken on. However, the long term solution is to hire subs. Currently using Kelly Services to fill staffing needs; that is the only advertising for these much needed positions.
 - Building sub has not been found via Kelly Services
- Open request to the group for suggestions and/or referrals; please reach out to Ruth if you know of someone.
- Requirements include:
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Pass background check
 - Fully vaccinated

Principal's Report: Ruth Rose

- Six weeks in school without interruptions; mitigation strategies working!
- Opened additional section of kindergarten
- Recent activities:
 - Fire Safety (controlled burn, fire trucks, etc.)
 - Josephs photography
 - Autism awareness last week
- Down Syndrome awareness week is upcoming; Ruth to provide dates
- Drop off and pick up procedures continue to be refined. Buses are using the main circle with kids entering through the main doors; parents are dropping off via the parking lot with kids entering via the double doors leading to the pit.
- Did have to double up on buses this week
 - Working to hire own subs
 - Vaccination has reduced the time loss due to quarantine
- The office is appreciative of the ongoing communication from home
 - Due note that a negative rapid test is now allowed for covid testing return to school

Teacher Rep Steph Merriman:

- Reiterated great start to year
 - Students & staff are feeling more normal/comfortable.
 - Teachers feel there has been an increase in communication with families.
- There is a desire to incorporate more sensory areas into the school. Hopscotch stations were also mentioned.
 - Action item to provide numbers to PTO/Dr. Martineau
- Fourth grade teachers are seeking volunteers to assist with supply gathering, etc. for this year's pumpkin project.
- Requested an update on Daisy Dash:
 - Tovah indicated that the 5K may occur in spring and is still in the early planning stages.

New Business (key information and motions voted on)

- Cultural Arts
 - Chairs: **Jenn** Gallegos & **Abby** Fredrickson
 - Pen Pals
 - Connection to an ELL teacher in Africa (Ivory Coast) for grades preK-5 and working to get logistics together to have pen pals.
 - Author Readings
 - RJ Julia has an Authors to SchoolsPprogram; purchase a set amount of books and kids can get them signed.
 - If you know an author (or are one) reach out to the cultural arts committee
- Goose Chase virtual scavenger hunt
 - Cassie mentioned we purchased this last year for Daisy Dash and still had a subscription. Perhaps do a wizarding/holiday themed scavenger hunt?
- Other Items:
 - Would love to draw in new membership and we are open to ideas:
 - 30% of families are ESL so would translation be well received? The board is investigating. Dr. Martineau suggested using high school students.
 - Buddy up new families.
 - Perhaps the teachers could distribute the PTO flier to encourage families to attend.
 - Corey brought up the WYFS Holiday Gift Giving program:
 - Provides grocery & gift cards for needy families.
 - Can give money or cards to Corey or directly to WYFS.
 - Corey also is accepting hand me down snow gear for schools.
 - Alyssa talked about the coat drive last year:
 - There was a drop off station at the library lot and then donations were brought over to WYFS.
 - Not certain if this is occurring again this year.
 - Clothing drives (at Ted Lane) have noted that children aren't coming to utilize the pick-up of clothing. Could messaging be better communicated? Need to determine who is running and could provide that information sooner. Corey took an action item to look into this further.
- Ruth took poll and there was interest in continuing the hybrid option

Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for November 11, 2021 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm

Minutes compiled by Krystle Jochim, Secretary

Daisy Ingraham Elementary School PTO

Chat History for Reference:

You 7:12 PM

Budget:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14tfDm63biliGxb8nHon3UnbdhYBEY55fbqQuYkkDvCs/edit?usp=sharing>

Minutes from 6/2/21 Meeting:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11DgWeL3wJ4XqGaAz0fFNE0ZalAvkUbchpGr0mD83QRO/edit?usp=sharing>

Corey Ehrlich 7:20 PM

I bet that was my amazon purchases

Ruth W. Rose 7:20 PM

LOL!!!

You 7:25 PM

Amazon Smile:

https://smile.amazon.com/.../06-1303428&ref=pe_732550...

Victoria Reynolds 7:25 PM

That link didn't seem to work

You 7:27 PM

Check the PTO out on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DaisyIngrahamPTO>

You 7:32 PM

Try this Smile link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1303428>

Elizabeth Cleveland 7:38 PM

Are building subs on the table?

Leslie Fuchs 7:39 PM

Can you remind us what the requirements are for a sub? Education requirements?

Meredith A Werner 7:39 PM

It would be great if the district would hire a Building Sub not with Kelly services

Ruth W. Rose 7:40 PM

We are working on that.

Alyssa Lindquist 7:41 PM

perhaps coordinating with colleges for newly certified teachers?

Colleen Bloom 7:41 PM

Raise the pay of subs to be equal with surrounding towns.

Ruth W. Rose 7:42 PM

Bachelor's degree, minimum requirement for a substitute.

Corey Ehrlich 7:54 PM

Can I share about holiday gift giving after Stephanie?

Ruth W. Rose 7:54 PM

Yes!

Corey Ehrlich 7:58 PM

can you put that list in the chat?

You 7:59 PM

Need room parents for:

Trojan, Kukta, Reynolds, Sullivan, Rice, Freeman, Paulsen

sorry for the poor spelling

Kirsten Tonnessen 8:02 PM

For Mrs Rice - I can reach out and ask for help to get a second as needed (since I assume I'm the 1 right now). Also - The amazon smile link works - all signed up for \$\$ to Westbrook PTO (be afraid...)! If parents join the google meet you can show captions in your language too (something we can promote to gain new members?).

Laurie Kukta 8:02 PM

Ruth can we use language line for this?

Corey Ehrlich 8:03 PM

sending the newsletter in Spanish and Portuguese would help as well

Cassandra Morrison 8:03 PM

I was just thinking that, too, Corey

If I use Google Translate for the newsletter, is there someone on staff that can proof read to make sure it's not gibberish?

Colleen Bloom 8:06 PM

Can we still drop off to you Corey?

Elizabeth Haynes 8:09 PM

Just catching up on the chat now- I am happy to be a room parent for Sullivan and Reynolds.

Colleen Bloom 8:09 PM



Ruth W. Rose 8:16 PM

What a great connection with Emily Hardy!!!

Meredith A Werner 8:20 PM

Where do we send Author information? Or who should we have them contact?

Leslie Fuchs 8:20 PM

It is so helpful

Colleen Bloom8:20 PM

Yes 👍

Cassandra Morrison8:20 PM

I hope we always keep the virtual option!

You8:20 PM

Reach out to the daisy PTO website and we will pass it along to Abby & Jen

Leslie Fuchs8:20 PM

Thank you so much for the work to make his happen!

You8:21 PM

daisyingrahampto@gmail.com