

**General PTO Meeting, Thursday, February 11, 2021, 6:00-7:30pm**

The meeting was virtual and held over Zoom. There were 12 people in attendance.

1. Welcome-PTO President, Johnny Fils-Aime
   1. PTO officer introductions
2. Principal’s Update-Mme Flores-Hanson and M. Bell: As you know we have started welcoming back our pre-K to 2nd graders. It has been an adjustment; a lot of preparation has gone into getting ready to come back. One of the things I miss the most is being able to have parents back in the building. It’s definitely a little different but it’s always wonderful to see the kids. The kids have to walk by themselves and carry all their gear-but they are confident and they’ve learned the routine. We have about 2/3rds of students in the building. It feels a lot emptier, but it feels alive. We are so thankful for that and for all the hard work that the teachers and parents have been doing. We see the light at the end of the tunnel. This Tuesday we will welcome the upper campus students (2-5 grades). Lots of masks, lots of hand sanitizer, teachers are working to teach routines. Everyone must be very tired after the first few days. For those who are doing virtual learning school-we have one teacher in every grade level who is doing virtual-except 5th grade. 5th grade teachers are all teaching both distance and in-person. We have lots of great skills and will. Johnny Fils-Aime-The staff has done a wonderful job and it’s a well-oiled machine. I want to take the time to thank the teachers and staff. It’s been going so smoothly. It’s night and day. Mme Flores-Hanson-Thank you! We wanted to make sure the students were comfortable in school and the kids are really learning the routine and doing a great job. We are so happy to see everyone and thank you for your patience.
   1. PBIS: M. Bell-Positive Behavior Intervention Support. Students practice being safe, respectful and responsible. We are giving star tickets-if the school gets to 1000 star tickets there’s a school-wide celebration. We are also doing weekly assemblies reminding students to be RSR, and we have a highlight tape of a grade that is showing good behavior. It’s a nice thing and the kids like it-the theme last week for the highlight tape was “I wanna rock”. This week it’s going to be “we jamming”.
   2. Student Recruitment: The pandemic affected enrollment district-wide. Lots of students moved on to private schooling. We lost 70 students. We have been giving virtual tours-not large groups. We’re still doing once a week virtual tours. The parents are asking really good questions. We have the bumper stickers and the yard signs. Hopefully if people see the yard signs and the bumper stickers they will inquire about the school. We don’t know what it’s going to look like next year but hopefully we’ll be back full time. It just depends on what happens. The enrollment season is open. We haven’t received an update yet on numbers but we’ll find out. There’s nothing better than the word of mouth. PTO has a Facebook page and a website. More is being posted on the PTO page. Johnny Fils-Aime: We should have a separate public FB or IG page. You never know how many students you can get with that alone. Michelle Setodji- I am on board with that and I will do whatever I can do to help. Johnny Fils-Aime- For the PTO page is there a big following, and how do we get more people involved? Michelle Setodji- We used to have a directory so parents could connect. We also have the PTO Facebook page that lots of people visit. Roy Kirsch- We used to put the FB page on the bottom of all of our emails and communications. Malia Caruso- There are a lot of views, but there’s not a lot of engagement. I can see if posts are being shared but not who is sharing it. There is a directory, and I’ve been entering the people, but the website is challenging. The website is really slow. Johnny Fils-Aime- What is being posted on the FB page? Malia Caruso- Events, a social media campaign. I usually post events, PTO meetings; we haven’t had a ton of engagement. JFA: People can’t go anywhere so social media is key. A few good posts, a few funny videos and all of a sudden there’s a lot of people involved. I’d be willing to share my business page so you can see how mine is. Posting videos of the kids, etc. or things that we are doing would be amazing so that people can see the amazing things the school is doing. Share pics of the first day back, etc. MS-No names of kids but they’re ok with pics. We can put an icon over the face of kids who don’t give media permission. JFA-we can post field trips, different funny things and people get engaged.
   3. President asked what help the PTO needs?
      1. Need Fundraiser to replace Ray
      2. Intern Committee is just 1 person
      3. Toni is going to stay on for intern committee so that should be a priority. MC will send out an email to get some interest for the open positions. Parent Question-Will we have interns from other countries from other countries? Can we work with a company that will recruit outside of France? MFH We are looking for more diverse interns. We only have one parent who can recruit from other francophone countries. I understand it’s been done in the past, we should be able to do it again!
3. Committee Reports
   1. Intern Committee-We couldn’t have any interns this year and last year’s interns had to return to France in March last year. The French embassy is opening for Interns again in January but the district decided to forgo interns. We need to know by the end of February if we want Interns for next year.
      1. We need to decide if we want to proceed with Interns next school year.
      2. Do we have the funds? How much do we have? If we don’t have enough can we raise enough? James Lewis-We have enough money for interns.
      3. An intern is (health insurance is $76/mo, stipend $300-500/mo, $1700 Administrative fee)
      4. Do we have enough host families? Can we send out a survey to see if we have enough host families? Host families have to submit an application.
      5. Questions during the intern portion:
4. Do we need to host for the whole year or just a semester?
   1. No, usually just half a year.
5. Do we have a sense of how other families are feeling towards having interns?
   1. Doesn’t seem like we know this. The survey may be a good way to find this out.
   2. Depending on answers do we know if we can have an intern for half a year
6. Madame Flores-Hanson will inquire about an extension from the Intern program if we start in January and do a half year. Madame will send out the survey via a Google form.
7. Have we heard from the Intern committee if anyone inquired about hosting this upcoming year?
   1. No, it has been on hold basically since the last Interns went home in March
   2. Treasurer-James Lewis: There’s not a whole lot to report. We do have over 100K, we have to pay for the services online and the QuickBooks. That’s a monthly fee. We paid for the printing service and for the speaker. The fees we pay are about 100$ a month. There are also taxes that the PTO has to do and that’s due in the summer. There used to be an accountant that would do it for free so that’s an extra service that we may need to pay for in June. I am still in contact with the previous treasurer. He’ll help me with getting the taxes. MS-We have CPA parents, we should recruit them and maybe someone would be willing to contribute that way?
   3. Fundraising-Ray Kirsch
      1. The plant sale: Rebecca Koetter-the plant sale is going to happen. I’ve got the information compiled and ready to go. It’s a pretty easy fundraiser for us to do. There’s some heavy lifting with the brochure. It’s all ready to go. Ray and I have been talking about how to get that out to the rest of the student body. The plant sale distribution happens in the spring. April 30 would be the best day for the distribution. That’s going to be a good fundraiser for people to get their flowers for Mother’s Day. For the district to happen at that time we have to collect orders five to six weeks ahead of time. March 31st. Brochure should be out by the end of February. I’ve sent home a brochure, done emails, and a flier. In the past we’ve used the PTO email list. That hasn’t been updated or edited since the pandemic. Can we send a list through the school? Yes-as long as it’s clear that it’s from the PTO. Will orders be digital? In the past we’ve just done paper but had a pdf of the brochure on the website. Ideally that’s what would happen again. For people who don’t know it’s run through Gerten’s. All the plants are coming from Gerten’s. They are offering an online website that they make for each of the particular groups. It’s tempting but they charge you for doing the website. We can have people pay cash or check, do the old fashioned way. There’s a donate icon on the PTO website and people can pay electronically that way if you don’t want to write a check or pay cash. RayK-A small percentage goes to PayPal but yes that will work. MFH-For distribution we can do it like we do with learning materials. I think that’s definitely possible. Last year we made around 2000$. It’s not a lot but it will help! RebK-Would it be possible to come in and make copies at school with the PTO code? The school can do the copies for us and they will distribute since parents can’t come in the building.
   4. Social-Michelle Setodji
      1. Teacher appreciation-In the past we had trays. It was like an upscale hotel where they could grab what they wanted to. They loved the coffee! ☺ Could we do a gift card for everyone? Could we do a box lunch? Are there any local coffee shops? We can’t have anyone in the building who doesn’t work in the building? We had checked into a local French bakery that has individual croissants. La delish. They might give us a little deal. Rebekah LaCasse will contact the bakery and we can be in contact about the coffee.
   5. Communications-Malia Caruso
8. New Business
   1. Ways the PTO can support the school as we transition to in-person learning
      1. Small sized masks
      2. We could use extra gloves, hats
      3. Third grade teachers were talking about notebooks. We are buying that from the school budget.
      4. The distance got some grants for distance learning and some teachers have been asking for supplies. We’ll wait and see what we get and we can put up a wish list. It could be open and parents can contribute what they are able. Amazon has some good deals on masks. They were really well priced. There’s an amazon smile LNFI-we should advertise that again. MC-I thought at some point that it wasn’t working. RK-There were two types of Amazon accounts and amazon wasn’t happy with us but the smaller one was still available.
9. Announcements
   1. Next meeting will be March 11-probably via Zoom.
   2. Is there any thought on Kermesse? No large gatherings will be happening this year. Everything should be virtual and that probably won’t change by the end of the school year.
10. Adjournment