

PTO Leadership Council Meeting
April 16, 2018: 5:30 pm

Introduction (Matt):

- Around the Circle introductions by all
- Goes over agenda, encouragement to be involved in PTO (see slides).
- Everyone invited to all meetings. Might have potluck in lieu of May PTO meeting.
- 5% daily net sales donations to Appalachian Offsets on April 19 at Whole Foods/Green Life
- April 19 @ 6:30 – Talent show
- April 19 @ 6:15 – Edington Center, Racial Equity Advocate

Read to Succeed (Kate Lalor and Bo Royer)

- 20 Read to Succeed coached and reading buddies at IDES.
- Started in 2008. Kids reading on grade level by 3rd grade have much better chance of success in life. All kinds of people help with this program.
- Align curriculum with classroom curriculum
- Serve 142 students in city and county schools. (Passed out card information to attendees)

Title I Update (Laura Lane – ppt presented)

- Funds awarded to schools based on % of kids that qualified for free and reduced lunch
- Discussed budget – how many interventionists, summer reading materials
- Work with K-5 students. “Pull out” to do intensive literacy work
- Work with ~100 students at any given time. Groups are flexible and change
- Budget – next year may be only \$63-64K. Down from more than \$160K 2 years ago.
 - Some fed funds drop but mainly due to the fact that
 - % of kids that qualify for free/reduced lunch has dropped. This year only 32%. Not available yet for 2018/19.
 - Drop in affordable housing/changing demographics is a big reason why #s are dropping.
 - Placement and enrollment done through Central Office, not similar in % across various city schools. What is being done about this? Could be gentrification, they try to give choices to city residents.
 - Not everyone applies but Brad Johnson feels its in changing demographics.
 - Funding is done on May 4 - final.
- Compact has to be signed by every student/parent – goes home with every student.

NC Association of Educators Overview and Thoughts from State Conference (Mr Withrow – IDES representative)

Withrow is school rep - ~6-7 members at IDES, maybe 90 in the county. Membership dues are based on percent of beginning teachers salaries.

- Advocate for teachers/staff/children
- Professional development – support beginning teachers
- Dues are not cheap on a teachers salary
- State conference in Raleigh
 - Changed his perspective – what can “I” do?
 - Gun violence was a big topic. What should education sector be doing?
 - Advocating for anti-gun measures (improving mental health counselor ratios, security, etc)
 - Advocating for pay increases to national averages within 4 years.
 - Supporting educators of color
 - updating resources – class mandates are fully funded
- Local chapter talking about becoming more active. April 20 – students are walking out of schools re gun violence. Have rally this Friday. Please attend rally!
- May 16 legislature is back in session. Trying to organize strong presence in Raleigh – hoping to get van or bus to go down.
- Parents – support by going to events, speak to legislators.

Earth Cob Oven update (Matt):

- Work has begun, joint project between Bright Ideas and PTO
- Kids have been out there working
- A lot of work going on until beginning of May
- May 2 – ribbon cutting ceremony, then pizza making
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Community Art Project Update (Matt):

- Stumptown Mural Project is underway after 4 listening sessions
 - Hope to make mini-documentary when all is said and done
 - Portraits of residence on raised panels, kids will be helping in art class.

Shade sail Update (Matt):

- Currently under review by the county, grant from Faile Foundation
- Will be May or June before installment

Garden Shed

- Some permitting confusion here as well
- Will definitely be after school gets out before construction starts

Mindfulness Event (Ms May)

- May 4 and 5.
- Childcare provided
- Friday night – movie called “Resilience” to be shown.

- Question: Can people outside Dickson community attend? Maybe new kindergarten parents? (Kindergarten acceptance letters went out yesterday.)
 - May will check on this.

Need to make PTO great next year – all positions open for Leadership Council, except:

Sarah Patten (treasurer)
Brooks Flanders (communications)
Pepi also remaining

Please volunteer!!

Need Proctors for EOY testing (Ruafika Cobb)

- Parents please help!
- About 1-1.5 hrs training, & 7:45-12 for actual proctoring

Budget update:

- Really big squeeze going on – there are some immediate needs
- No Breakfast of Hope unless parents step up. Will be Matt and Jess if no one else steps up.
- Need help for HC10K
- Sarah discussed everything the budget went to supporting the school and activities.
- Noted: There is a big disconnect between potluck in May and first meeting in early school next year (meet in summer?). Teachers did have summer meetings last year.
- Crystal: 25% cuts are coming to media centers and maybe others. Ask for \$ from budget? Sarah, Please ask!!
- Two more work sessions – next is May 1. Drafting budget priorities.

Other Business

- None

Meeting Adjourned

Next PTO meeting: Monday, May 15, 2018 @ 5:30 pm