

Dale Street PTO
September 20, 2023 9:45 AM

Welcome and Introductions:

Nesse McCabe - 5th Grade Co-President
Nicole Saulnier - 4th Grade Co-President
Nicole Crocker - Vice President
Nicola Tessier - Secretary
Kristen Storer – Treasurer

- In Attendance: Nesse McCabe, Nicole Saulnier, Nicole Crocker, Kristen Storer, Emily Grella, Steve Grenham, Katherine Weisse, Christine Ferguson, Kristin Simonini (Representing School Committee), Maria Puglia
- MCPE will be sending representatives from time to time as well

Principal Update: Steve Grenham

- Great start to the year
- Hospitality was awesome with the welcome back for the teachers – very appreciated
- PTO has been awesome, so great with the welcome back for the students, special thank you to Nesse for finding volunteers for the bathroom painting project and the first day music/welcome for the students
- New Math Program starting this year – Illustrative – piloted in classrooms at each grade level last year. Going well. Math coordinator has checked in already.
- Open House was a hit – new format this year
 - Great feedback overall from parents, students and teachers
 - Food samples were available too
 - Specialists saw many people and were able to interact and give out materials – doubled the number of people they encountered from years past
 - Some feedback shared from the group:
 - Overall positive feedback
 - Scavenger hunt was great idea
 - A little tricky if you had a student in both grades
 - Some missed a formal presentation from teachers about curriculum, etc.
 - Some teachers had a one pager or a presentation they emailed home, maybe have something consistent for every class for next year
 - Split time was helpful and being able to drop in during that window was great
 - Many were able to have two parents attend because of the timing and bringing the students
 - Maybe a little later in the year next year to give teachers more time to get to know the students
- School pictures through LifeTouch went well, they will be back to take the Grade 5 photo for the yearbook

- New Building Committee – representative of many groups
 - Letter of intent sent to MSBA – December vote
 - Great board with a lot of diverse backgrounds and perspectives
- Science Fair (Raised by Maria Puglia)
 - It was great in the past at Wheelock
 - Would be great to do at Dale now that the students are a little older
 - Maria offered to take the lead on it
 - Steve and Maria are going to talk offline about it to discuss further and see how we can incorporate Maker Space if we move forward with it
 - Fun Fact: Maker Space alternates months with each grade

Treasurer Report: Kristen Storer

- Budget distributed
 - New Format – grouped by Grant Funded Expenses and PTO Expenses
- Over 51K to start the year
- Healthy budget and expect a healthy increase in funds this year
- Start up funds were distributed to the teachers and they were given their thank you fund starting balance as well
- Water in the teachers room discussed
 - Removed this year after looking at the cost, and looking at our spending percentages on students vs. staff
 - Last year we spent \$1200, despite a \$600 budget
 - Should we revisit?
 - Wheelock does \$600, Memorial it does not come from the PTO budget
 - We have the money in the budget to add it back
 - Quality of the water at the refilling stations was discussed, students use it
 - Group can see both sides
 - No decision was made; We are going to keep the discussion going on this topic

Funding Request: Steve Grenham

- Steve requested \$196 for Foyer Art with the painting of Dale Street School and the new 4 Core Values (District Wide) – Respect, Continuous Growth, Inclusivity and Responsibility
 - Approved the expense – will come out of enrichment

Open House Recap: All – see Principal Update

MCPE Update and School Committee Update Kristin Simonini

- New Strategic Plan – up and on the website
 - 5 Year plan
 - 23/24 Project Plan outlined as well
- Dale Street School Project
 - MSBA Funding is looking promising because Dale is viewed as a high need school
 - One hiccup is the committee wants to see the community being able to come together on the plan, division and vote down by town could be viewed as a negative. They want to make sure it will be approved. Balance the needs and concerns of all community members.
 - There will be a table at Medfield Day

- Coming down the pipeline in the future would be addressing school start times, nothing at this time on the agenda, but would likely be the next major discussion point.
 - Committee would be formed to look at the pros/cons and logistics

Hospitality Update: Inger Kenworthy

- Welcome back breakfast was a big hit
- Plan is to do something each month
- Communication for October soon

Rainbow Run: Nesse McCabe

- Need to get the word out
 - Water bottle Stickers going home with students
 - Daily Dale announcement
 - Write up in Steve's blog
 - Steve sending a separate stand alone email as well
 - Goal is to get the entire school registered
 - Money raised is pooled and split across all three elementary schools
 - We are at 36K right now, hoping for 60K; last year we raised 90K
 - PTO dues are rolled into this fundraiser. – not asking for both
 - \$100 raised to earn a tshirt
 - Volunteer sign up genius went out
 - 12 volunteers per timeslot
 - Nicole, Nicola and Kristen will be there as well as the Rainbow Run Committee
 - Parents not officially invited, but can come by to watch from behind the fence

Room Parent Update: Claire Pickering

- Room parents still needed in DiPesa, Gutierrez, Chamblin and Condon
- Meeting 10/2
- Lottery this week for classes with more volunteers
- Notified Thursday or Friday

Volunteer Needs - volunteer form can be found at www.medfieldk8pto.com

- Kids Night Out Grade 4
- Yearbook Grade 4
- Variety Show
- Beautification Team
- Do we want to offer photocopying help too?

Kids Night Out Updates

- Going to do 2 events
- Working on recruiting a 4th grade team

Fall School Spirit Ideas –

- Do we want to do a door decorating contest? Have the room parents make this a class activity?
- Other ideas for fall decorating

NEXT DALE PTO MEETING: November 15, 2023 @ 7 pm via zoom

TOWNWIDE PTO MEETING: October 16, 2023 @ 7 pm, Blake LMC