

Monroe General PTO Meeting (Zoom)

May 6, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Welcome from Jenny Boots (PTO Co-President)

- The PTO has been affected by COVID-19 and several other circumstances this school year.
- We will be taking three different votes during the meeting on various topics (no one will be able to see who votes or how they vote)
- Approval of January PTO General Meeting Minutes

Mr. Horne (School Update)

- Did not expect to end his career at Monroe this way and appreciates the well wishes and comments
- Received a great response from Monroe for the recent D181 eLearning survey: one of the biggest struggles is how much work is enough for the students
- Teachers have learned a ton of new and different programs and technologies in the recent months to help with eLearning
- We are all having similar struggles maintaining the eLearning schedules, whether you are a teacher or parent
- June 1st will be locker and supply pick up at Monroe. All locker, art and personal items will be placed in a labeled box that can be picked up outside of school. The schools have been routinely cleaned so boxes and materials are safe. Everyone will wear masks during pick up. This process is optional. If you choose to pick up next school year, that is acceptable.
- Additional communications will come about returning library books and technology (3rd – 5th grade)
- 3rd – 5th grade Math placement information will be released the week prior to Memorial Day (revamped guidelines were approved due to lack of third MAP test as previously planned)
- New Monroe principal was just hired, Kristin Reingruber. She came from another blue ribbon school, Glen Oaks Elementary where she served as Principal. Mr. Horne is working on conducting a social distanced school tour with her and the PTO will work with her to arrange a meet up this summer (possibly during the back to school lemonade stand).
- Monroe also hired a new school psychologist, Marissa Fang. We were sharing one with the other D181 elementary schools for the majority of the past year and are excited to have our own
- More than 20 students attended the last virtual birthday lunch with Mr. Horne! The next one for May and July birthdays will be on May 21st at noon
- Monroe will conduct as many year end celebrations as possible. Culmination will be as normal as possible without the live ceremony (videos will be made for each student and yard signs are currently being made)

- Field Day will take place on June 1st with a Family Backyard Olympics theme and suggested games to play
- June 2nd will be the last day of eLearning
- Mr. Horne will conduct separate class meet ups to say good-bye virtually to students and will arrange a time to come to school next year to say good-bye in person
- The Spring Book Fair is taking place during the month of May. Information on how to order books from Anderson Book Stores is available on the Monroe PTO website. Books can be picked up curbside at Anderson Book Stores or shipped home for a small fee. All funds will go towards purchasing new books for the library and author speakers next school year.
- Summer Learning Classes will still take place this year, but virtually. Each class will be live with a teacher. The district is currently scheduling teachers for necessary classes. Students with IEPs have been given first access to classes and then sign ups will be available to other students
- Students will still be able to access remote school programs and apps this summer with the given passwords to continue their eLearning if desired

Mrs. Andreoni (Physical Education Update)

- Thank you to Mr. Horne for his dedication to the Movement Lab and for his belief in physical education as a whole in schools. He recently received an award for his efforts
- Additional information around Virtual Field Day will be released soon

PTO Update (Sara Clary, PTO Co-President)

- PTO Grants for teachers continue through the end of the school year. There are five pending grants
- We have supported several meaningful grants this past year including Mrs. Wodka's STEAM boot camps, SELAS learning materials, Mr. Oldenburg's strategy games that we hope will turn into a club
- We have \$2500 left in the grant budget that we hope to spend on eLearning items now or items to be used during the next school year
- This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and we are appreciating our teachers now more than ever! We plan to give them gift cards to Anderson book stores to spend on themselves, we put a fun sign in front of the school to thank them (see Monroe Mustang social media posts for picture) and compiled a video of students thanking them and telling them what they miss most about their classes
- Please support the Monroe Virtual Book Fair; Monroe gets a portion of each book sold. Please remember to add "Monroe School" in the comments section

COVID-19 Impact to Monroe PTO (Jenny Boots, PTO Co-President)

- Family Fun Fest has been cancelled (amusement company allowed us to roll our deposit into next year's event)

- Jimmy John's and Giuliano's lunches: families that paid for these lunches will receive gift cards to use at the restaurants. Gift cards will be placed in school supply boxes to be picked up at Monroe
- Purchases made at Parents' Night Out have been rolled into next year (i.e. teacher for a day, etc.). Those parents have been contacted
- There were several unfulfilled trips from the 2018/2019 fundraiser because the company went out of businesses that need to be refunded (more to come later in the presentation)

Monroe PTO Budget Update (Sarah Tims, Treasurer)

- This year's fundraising efforts/income to exceed budgeted amount by \$13,726. Events that helped accomplish this are Charleston Wrap (+\$1,016), Monroe Café (+\$4854), Parents' Night Out (+2,659) and School Packs (+\$2128)
- Two budget items were moved to next year: Backyard Bash ticket sales (\$3707) will be moved to next year's fundraiser and the \$4525 deposit for Family Fun Fest
- We are in a great place financially as a board and have accomplished our goals despite COVID-19 and the surrounding events
- We want to continue to spend money on important items like grants and teacher appreciation
- There's also several items we did not spend money on due to COVID-19 and other circumstances: Cultural Arts, DARE, Hospitality (no lunches) and no website upgrade charge (functionality restored without a charge)

Refund Vote (all)

- In 2018, PTO purchased trips from a company called Getaway2Give and then the PTO auctioned off these trips at the 2018/2019 Fundraiser
- We were notified in March/April 2020 that G2G was going out of business and trips could not be honored or refunded by G2G
- There were high value trips and most families already had travel arrangements made
- These trip cancellations affect 7 Monroe families (3 trips)
- Refunds for these trips would equal \$11,875
- The vote to refund the families who purchased trips provided by Getaway2Give at the 2018/2019 fundraisers totaling \$11,875 PASSED (97% said yes, 3% said no)

PTO Look Ahead (Megan Maduri, PTO Co-Vice President)

- We are hoping everything comes to fruition and that we will be able to resume as normal!
- We are planning a summer principal meet and greet following social distancing guidelines

- The 5K will not be held next Fall; instead we will push for a bigger presence at the Rotary Run and will host a similar outdoor event called Orange Ruler; it's a fun, active way for students to get involved in the fundraiser and will replace Jump for Heart as well
- Our Spring fundraiser will be pushed back and will be held on May 1, 2021. Reach out to Megan Brotschul to get involved
- We want to recognize the current board members and their contributions to Monroe and the PTO this year, thank you!

2020/2021 PTO Board Slate Vote

- Co-Presidents: Megan Maduri and Tamsyn Pequet
- Co-Vice Presidents: Kristin Maggio and Shawn Mullarkey
- Treasurer: Elaine Gilman
- Assistant Treasurer: Michelle Shang
- VP, Communications: Lara Massouras
- Vote to approve 2020/2021 Slate Approved

2020/2021 PTO Budget (Elaine Gilman, Assistant Treasurer)

- We are anticipating a regular year next year, but are taking some budgetary precautions
- We have lowered incoming fundraiser expectations
- We will continue with Jimmy John's and Giuliano's lunches
- \$49,600 is our proposed income which is a solid amount
- Some immediate expenses include school grounds improvement (landscaping, etc) based on recent school survey results and teacher appreciation
- We are trying to cut back on accounting fees and contingencies (no website upgrades)
- We want to focus expenditures on things that will benefit our students like increasing the number of assemblies, bringing in new speakers, a bigger science fair, increased support for Family Fun Fest and a Mother/Son and Father/Daughter event
- If the new principal has a passion project, we have funds available to support
- Vote to approve 2020/2021 budget approved

2020/2021 Volunteer Opportunities (Tamsyn Pequet)

- We have filled several critical committee roles for next year, but there are still opportunities available to co-chair and to volunteer
- Committees that still need assistance are: Family Fun Fest, Monroe Café, Student Activities, Community Partners, Chess Club, Science Fair, Fifth Grade Specials (Culmination, Outdoor Ed Sales, DARE Luncheon)
- To volunteer, please sign up at monroepto.com

Meeting Adjourned

