

Fountain Hills PTO

Executive Committee Meeting

August 12, 2014

PRESENT: Tara Lamar, Dwight Johnson, Karen Pederson, Kristy Coup, Omar Vargas, Lauren Vargas, LeAnn Buckley, Nicole Perkins and Rosemarie Barker

ABSENT: Ken Brande and Jill Reed

The meeting was called to order by Tara Lamar at 9:00 a.m. in the Learning Center next to the Fountain Hills Unified School District Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Were inadvertently skipped on the Agenda.

Valerie Debombreux, the new principal for McDowell Mountain Elementary came to introduce herself to the Board. She is very excited for her new role here in Fountain Hills.

OLD BUSINESS

School Supplies: Our goal was to sell 100 kits. We sold 64 to McDowell Mountain and 24 to Four Peaks for a total of 88 kits. There was some difficulty with the 4th and 5th grade supply lists. The teachers had requested a different list than what was supplied by the principal. Ultimately the teachers' supply list was used for those kits. In the spring we should revisit whether or not to sell the school supply kits next year. This should be discussed at Site Council as well. We should also consider adding 7th and 8th grade which could make up for our deficit.

Event Sign Up/Chair results: Grandparents Day - empty

Book Fair - 4 parent volunteers at McDowell Mountain, Four Peaks and Middle School - empty

Apex Fun Run – filled but may need more volunteers for water

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon – McDowell Mountain – 2 chairs filled, Four Peaks and Middle School – empty

PTO Spring Event – 2 chairs filled

Boohoo Breakfast: It was unanimously agreed that Nicole did an incredible job. Next year we will need to have volunteers outside with signs directing people to where the breakfast is. A large portion of Kindergarten parents were missing. We will make a list of a few things to improve on, directing parents being one of them. There was a motion made to do the Boohoo Breakfast again next year. The motion was seconded and passed.

Website: Our domain name has been passed to Go Daddy. As of yesterday, our website is dead. Nicci with KETTZ5 is working on getting it up and running hopefully today. All of our initial content from the old website will be uploaded by Nicci. Once uploaded, Karen will work with her to tweak the content. It was mentioned that we should have a PayPal button and Karen will be working on that. Kristy and Leann need to get their Bio's to Karen.

NEW BUSINESS

Back to School: Preschool is tonight. Thursday is McDowell Mountain. A table and our banner will be set up. We discussed how to capture more of the preschool parents. Tara is considering asking to be invited to the Ice Cream social to reach out to the preschool parents about what PTO does and encourage them to sign up to be members. We decided that we should wear PTO Board pins at these events so people know who we are. Karen will work on this for Thursday. Rosemarie is going to work on getting professional looking PTO Board shirts.

PTO Evening Social: Will be August 19th from 6:30-7:30. It is open to the public. Tara has extended an invitation to the School Board to speak. She would also like to invite the Town Council Members. Confirmed speakers so far are Tara Lamar, Tom Brennan, Anita Gomez, Valerie Dehombreux, Maria Perrault and Dwight Johnson. Dwight will discuss tax credits and tax override. As ways to increase parent attendance at the social, the idea was presented to raffle off a gift basket that evening. Dwight has coordinated with Euro Pizza to give parents a coupon when leaving. The vouchers will be good for \$5.00 and valid for that evening only from 7:45-8:45. Nicole is going to handle design and printing of the vouchers. Information on the event was sent out in the last PTO e-blast and will continue to be included in the next few e-blasts. Flyers will be delivered to each classroom for the teachers to distribute. Karen will get a flyer to Mr. Goletti to include in his weekly phone call to parents of Four Peaks and Middle School parents. Kristy is handling getting snacks and water for the parents and kids. Snacks will consist of cookies and a healthier option if available. Karen is working on recruiting teen volunteers for child care. Rosemarie will handle getting the volunteers and entertainment for the kids set up along with signing off on volunteer hours. A motion was made to approve \$50 for the basket raffle. The motion was seconded and passed.

Membership Drive: So far we have brought in \$1,500 and we haven't even launched the membership drive contest. In K-5 whichever class has the most parents sign up wins a pizza party and that teacher gets \$100 for in-classroom supplies. 2nd place will get popsicles. The Middle School team that has the most will get \$400 for in-classroom supplies.

Major Fundraisers/Events: Sponsors – Thank you to the Verne C. Johnson Family Foundation who has agreed to be a \$5,000 sponsor again this year! Tara, Omar and Lauren will spearhead sponsorship levels along with silent and live auction donations. Maybe sponsorship levels should be dialed down this year due to economy?

Book Fair: The PTO doesn't make any money as we take it in trade for books. We get a better percentage of sales that way. Work with teachers on what they want. A+ Books does a great job of getting books there immediately.

Apex Fun Run: Some parents love this event because it promotes physical activity. Other parents dislike it because the donations are expensive. Our profit runs 40% which is one of our highest. It's an easier event to do as we only need to pass out water and mark t-shirts.

Gala: The theme is Mardi Gras and will take place on Feb. 28th from 6:00-11:00 or 11:30. Nicci Irvine, Jill Reed, Lisa Meyers and Tara Lamar met with Fire Rock Country Club. It can accommodate 140 people and has to be banquet style. They are working on putting together some special menus. Concerns are possible back-ups at the guard gate and where to put the gift baskets at. Dwight suggested giving out blue parking passes when tickets are purchased to hand to the guard when entering. This way, all the guard does is take the ticket. This should alleviate

any back-ups. The food will go in the first room as you enter on the right w/ the baskets in the adjoining room also on the right. The live auction will take place in the bar area at 8:00 or 8:30. The dance floor will be in the middle with a DJ. We will have access to the outdoor patios as well as the fire pit. It was suggested that maybe we should charge extra for a “Premium Seating” ticket with reserved tables. We can also reach out to the art teachers to make some masks for the event. We should promote the Buy It Now option on baskets and maybe even hold some of the baskets back for the Spring Social.

Carnival/Boutique: Rosemarie will get with Elaine Somersfield to brainstorm

OPEN DISCUSSION

Karen would like to discuss at our next meeting organizing a Teacher of the Year Award.

Tara mentioned how important it is that we the PTO Board be involved in the planning and have a presence at all of these events. It’s best to find a couple people to chair and have them report directly to the lead board member for that event.

It would be nice to get feedback from the teachers on how they would like the money earned from fundraisers to be used.

There is a new white board by the office at McDowell Mountain. Nicole is going to ask Mrs. Dehombreux if we can use that for PTO information. We could also keep track of fundraising goals for certain purchases.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ken was absent. We’ve received \$1,500 from memberships so far. Should still be \$7,300 ahead from last year.

VP REPORTS

McDowell Mountain

Request for Funds – Jill Cooper - \$925 to renew subscription to Brain Pop, an online technology tool. The kids love it.

Site Council- none

Four Peaks

Request for Funds – Homework lab – around \$2,000 for supervision and instruction for 25-30 students

Site Council – none

Middle School

Request for Funds – Homework lab – around \$2,000 for supervision and instruction for 30-35 students

Site Council – none

Motion to approve for Jill Cooper - passed

Motion to approve Four Peaks homework lab - passed.

Motion to approve Middle School homework lab – passed

No further business was brought before the Board and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next PTO Board meeting will take place in the Conference Room at the Fountain Hills Unified School District Office at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Coup
PTO Board, Secretary