

## Margaret Beeks PTO Meeting, October 2nd, 2013 @ 6pm

Attendees: Faith Taylor, Caroline Mullins, Laura Oler, Edith-Anne Duncan, Elisabeth Gorton, Dawn Jefferies, Brad Finch, Melody Warnick, Rebecca Cauffman, Meredith Keith, Shelly Martin, Monica Davis, Lisa Maloney, April Peacock, Micah Mefford, Coretta Francis, Cathy Higgins, Mohammed Seyam, Danylle Kunkel, Ross Mecham, Monica Martin, Nicoline Girmes-Grieco, Yvonne Clark, Holly McFall, Carly Weber

Welcome – Carly introduced the board

PTO overview -- Welcome packets when out this week. They included forms to order magnets, Kroger cards, or join the PTO. PTO has added committee heads which each person with a PTO assignment will report to. This will help the flow of information to and from the president. A directory was circulated to check info. The directories went out at the end of the week. This year PTO is using class parents to communicate between teacher and parent and also to communicate all volunteering opportunities from the PTO to parents. Please give feedback to Faith on how it is working.

Treasury Update -- Kroger cards made \$928 in Sept, and Beeks made \$732 on football parking. Most of our spending so far has been on supplies and books for breakfast (we bought 200 books at the YMCA book fair!). We also bought iPad covers for the new iPads.

Budget addition for teacher requests -- A request was made to add \$1100 to the budget for teacher requests for education materials. This request was approved.

Minutes were approved from last meeting.

Principal's update – The skate night went well. We made money and had fun. Midterm grades will be available on the parent portal by Friday. We signed a contract with LifeTouch to do school pictures with us, and we got a \$500 signing bonus for signing a 2 year contract. Give me 5 is a school-wide initiative to get involved with education. It includes parents volunteering 5 hours of their time, giving \$5 to the PTO, spending 5 min. talking about school with our children, etc. This year Mr. Mefford wants to emphasize the teacher portion. This could include teachers calling or reaching out to parents with home visits, attending PTO meetings, volunteering at events, and so forth. PTO will continue to work with parents on the volunteer portion of give me 5. Mr. Mefford is also looking at ways to use technology more in the classroom. With that in mind, he is planning a BYOD (bring your own device) where students are allowed to bring iPads from home, and students and teachers work together to figure out ways that they learn. Mr. Mefford would also like to start brown bag lunches again, and he is soliciting ideas. Some ideas suggested were the BYOD plan, discipline, inclusion, and classroom differentiation program.

Committee Updates:

School Pictures are on Oct 9 from 9:05-2:00 pm. Volunteers are needed.

VT parking – We will be parking for the Nov. 16 football game against Maryland. Volunteers will be solicited. Mr. Mefford will be selling tailgating food as an additional fundraiser.

WOW class – 37 kids are signed up (almost full). We will do it again in the Spring.

Office volunteers – There is a meeting Friday, Oct 4, at noon to discuss office volunteer duties. There is also an online sign-up.

Restaurant Nights – The following restaurant nights are being planned:

Oct 23 at Sweet Frog

Nov 9, Sat morning, breakfast at Famous Anthony's

Jan 14 at Bull and Bones (snow day make-up on Jan 21)

May 19 at Bull and Bones

Books for Breakfast -- The first one was a success. 185 books were given away, and the coffee and tea were well-received.

School & Relations Committee Update – the vice-presidents will be working on this. Holly is working on community relations, and Caroline is in charge of the newcomer club, welcoming new families to Beeks. The newcomer club had a park event at Nellie's Cave Park on Sat.

New business

5<sup>th</sup> Graders – the 5<sup>th</sup> graders presented a presentation on the Tidewater trip they wish to take in June. The trip will cost \$220/student, and with that in mind, they are raising money to help offset the costs. They would like to put on a penny carnival. They presented 25 ideas of games and activities, including a theater. They would like to have food, such as cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, and cider. They looked at possible expenses, dates, and fees. They presented a plan to charge \$5/ child or \$20/ family. Tickets would be sold both at school and at the door. In addition, each game would cost a penny. Nov. 1 and Nov 8 were both mentioned as possible dates. The PTO voted to do this instead of the fall festival, and put the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in charge of it. They proposed \$220 from the budget for expenses. It was approved.

Spelling City for 3rd grade teachers – The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers have asked for spelling city. Mr. Mefford suggested we might want to fund it for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The cost is \$425. It was approved.

Donations to the school were discussed, including a donation option for specific school needs.

Field Trip for Mrs. Gilliam – This will be funded from the cultural arts fund

Ronald McDonald pull tabs – This is a community service we will be doing to benefit the Ronald McDonald house in Roanoke. Only the pull tabs from cans will be collected.

Fall Festival – Fall festival was initially planned for Nov 1, but it is now being turned over to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to decide date and time.

Happy Feet – This program has started and is going well, but parent volunteers are needed.