



PTO Meeting Agenda
Thursday, January 9, 2014

1. Welcome PTO Executive Board
 - a. Michelle Sosa called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Administrative staff included Carrie Romero Bruegger and Jim Palmer.

2. Updates from the Principal Kellie Lauth
 - a. Kellie was not in attendance; Carrie made announcements on behalf of the school.
 - b. Current happenings:
 - i. Writing content throughout the school. Each grade level has developed individual writing platforms. Writing is a main priority for the school as it has been a challenge and opportunity for the school and its students.
 - ii. January 21 – Launch Plus begins. This program will deliver opportunities for students to come in and use the library and computers. Staff and Admin will be here to help tutor and mentor students outside the school day. This will initially be piloted for 6-7th graders, as the school year progresses or the next school year begins this will be launched to the younger students.
 - iii. The school is getting ready and gearing up for TCAP testing. Dates for the testing are being solidified, and are anticipated sometime in March (Tuesday's and Thursday's). The school would ideally like to have testing complete by Spring Break.
 - iv. Linda Dellett asked if Spanish will ever become a 2nd language class offered to students. Carrie and Kellie have talked about it recently and there are some logistical challenges, however the school is looking into the potential and details related to it.
 - v. National Junior Honor Society – 2 teachers are facilitating this at the school. The organization includes activities outside of school as well as academic support. Kids apply to be a part of NJHS. They need to have recommendations from teachers; who look into extra curricula activities and academic performance. Students are then accepted or declined based on teacher feedback.

3. Updates from the PTO President Michelle Sosa
 - a. Upcoming activities:
 - i. Dine Out Nights –

1. Panda Express – January 14
2. Cici's Pizza – February
3. Culver's - March

b. Spanish Speaking PTO

- i. Susy Lujan gave the update.
- ii. This group is up and running and the first meeting was held in early December and consisted of 20-25 individuals.
- iii. Owner of nearby Mexican Food restaurant for a potential Dine out Night, Susy will continue to communicate with the owner to further the relationship.
- iv. They raised \$220.05 at their first fundraiser which took place on December 11 at the all school music festival.

c. Box Tops

- i. Submit by Feb 1 – this will be the cut-off date for the 2nd round of box tops.

d. Granting Process begins now!

- i. Melinda explained the Grant Request Forms and granting process. Current STEM Launch teachers and staff or parents/legal guardians of current STEM Launch students are eligible to apply. Applications must include a proposed project for the 2013-14 school year and if awarded funds must be spent within 60 days of award date or prior to the end of the school year, whichever comes first. Guidelines and applications can be found on the [website](#). Questions can be directed to Melinda at secretary@stemlaunchpto.org

4. Updates from the PTO Treasurer

Linda Dellett

- a. Linda gave the Treasurer update. We are still waiting for revenue from Fall Dine Out nights and a few other streams of revenue to hit the income portion of our budget. The PTO is doing extremely well and currently has roughly \$12,500 in cash balance in the budget. Approximately \$8,000 is available through the Granting Process.

5. Speaker: **Roger Dowd, Adams 12 District Director, Advanced Academic & Gifted Services, "How to Advocate for your Student"**

- a. When you may feel like your student/child's needs are not being met, what can we as parents do to advocate for our children?
 - i. Participants broke into groups to talk about expectations for your child's school, and challenges related to those expectations.
- b. Roger passed out a document that was adapted and created from several other documents and outlines valid learning points and tools to advocate with understanding.

- i. Go into situations with a solution based approach
- ii. Attitude of gratitude
- iii. Honor time commitment
- iv. Find common ground
- v. Try to resolve issues at the lowest level – communicate with your student's teacher
- vi. Flexible and open to 'out of the box' and new thinking/ideas

6. Adjourn

- a. Linda Dellett motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Melinda seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.