

September 13, 2018 PTO Meeting

**Welcome - Sybill Naidoo**

Welcome to everyone and thanks for coming back to our second meeting

Reviewed the agenda items for the meeting

Voting – we are trying something new and moving to an electronic voting method to provide an anonymous platform. Voting URL is on the agenda. Even though it is electronic, voting only occurs during the in-person meeting

Nominations for Secretary

Review the job description and the amount of time that is required (2-3 hours on average)

Gina Stone raised her hand, motion was seconded by Kim Johnson. Nominations were closed, and voting will happen later in the meeting via our new fancy voting system.

**Principal Update – Mr. Thomas**

Shout out to a brand – new Pre-K families joining us

Mrs. Pisciotta is scheduled to return on Monday, September 17. Big thank you to everyone who has brought meals to her; it was very much appreciated. Mr. Thomas will be asking parents who are able to come that morning to form a bridge of welcome and applause to welcome her at 9 AM. There have been cards and donations/gifts brought to school for her. Ms. Moll has done a wonderful job holding down the fort. She will stay in the classroom M/T to help with transition and then will return to her role as building sub.

VIP Day – Very Important Person Day is when students can invite a special person to come to school for activities. This is done in conjunction with the Scholastic Bookfair to help increase sales. Potential changes are in place for the day to split the day and have PK, K, 1 and 2 in the morning and 3, 4 and 5 will occur in the afternoon. VIP day is scheduled for October 16.

Technology Updates– We have 4 new promethean boards and are planning to purchase 3-4 more boards. They are about 4,000-5,000 per board. However, there is an option for a smart board which is a little less expensive. During the Professional Development Day on September 14, the staff will discuss and vote on which direction they want to go with technology. There will be a 70 inch screens placed in the library and the Spanish room in the coming months.

Door 1 – New banner has been placed for National Blue Ribbon on the building. Old banner was moved to the gym.

Ch-ch-changes -Dragon Tales newsletter went home today with students so check backpacks...  
New science lab teacher, Mary Schulz, has been hired and Ms Dixon will remain as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher throughout the year. We can't break up the Kargus/Dixon duo. Ms. Schulz has taught in the science classroom for over 6 years and has started to get comfortable with the science lab. 3,4,5 will participate in the science fairs. Wednesday and Fridays are Gateway Greening.

*Parent Comment– New science curriculum has been introduced in the district. Question about how Ms. Schulz will be following this, and will we get some pieces of the new curriculum.*

Kargus – Attended a workshop last year and the books that were ordered for science were not as robust as MAGI students would need. Most of the classroom teachers breakdown the standards, go elsewhere to utilize 3-4 sources and build out lesson plans. Standards are met, concepts are mastered and the thought is that it is more engaging.

*PC – Referencing that kits used have all the materials pre-packaged which helps.*

Thomas – Science is not unique on this because teachers explore

*PC – Question why we don't have instructional coaches?*

Thomas- Most schools receive title funds that can be used for this. We don't receive title funds because of our student body make up. Notes that it is a double edge sword because having that funds requires additional restrictions.

*PC – Is there any other pathway for instructional coaches?*

Thomas – Just under 300 kids in the school means we only qualify for a certain number of magnet students . He confirmed we are about 280. Question was asked about capacity and it was noted that we can reach 315. Even if we reached capacity we probably wouldn't get another magnet position.

### **Volunteer Updates – Ryan Haines**

Events are coming up this month... a lot!

New families make sure to fill out an adult volunteer application form to participate in activities on campus. If it has been more than 2 years, a renewal form is needed. Ms. Jackson has the master list to confirm. Good news.. you don't have to have references and if you do need one you can use your spouse/partner/neighbor if they actually like you.

#### Family Fun Night

Book Fair – Sign up spots are available to help;

Parent Teacher Conferences – Will ask for volunteers. Angie Merrikan will be our lead for teacher volunteer

Beautification Day – co headed by the Haines and Ramirez families. Everyone is welcome to come help clean up the school inside and out. Requests are sent to teachers for special projects that are above and beyond the regular cleaning i.e.

*PC – We could earn Disney tickets through volunteer opportunities. If anyone is interested in coordinating this, contact Michelle Haines.*

Trunk or Treat – headed by Angel and Natalie Johnson. Need a few more volunteers with games and crafts. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be selling pizza as a fundraiser for camp.

Tours – These are all lined up for the next couple ones. If you are interested in leading one, there is a cheat sheet to go through talking points. We could really use a few more.

Signage – Natalie Gensits has been leading this along with some additional volunteers. Again, we can always use help and can be flexible on the times

Open Spots – We need help with a new person to head up the Dragons Under the Sun. This year, the person will shadow Christy Graham and then will take over in 2020. We also need a volunteer to organize the uniform swap to set up tables, handle donations, etc.

*Insert Mr. Thomas update – Dragon rallies are held each month and usually focus on part of our PRIDE character traits. This year the format is changing and will focus on service outside of our building. For the month of October, we will be collecting new and gently used books for our sister school, Columbia, to help stock their shelves. November will be the canned food drive, December will be cards for local nursing homes and January will be schools supplies for Columbia.*

#### Decades Dance

Kim Johnson will be leading it this year and we will be “Dancing through the Decades” so come decked out in your 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s best because there will be a free photo booth courtesy of our yearbook photos (second free booth will be at Dragons Under the Sun) and there will be a plethora of hits by DJ Thomas.

#### **Fund Drive Kick – Off – Sybill Naidoo**

We do two really big fundraising events – fund drive in the fall and the trivia night in the spring. We don’t have to sell candy, wrapping paper, etc... and ALL the funds come back to the school. It makes it easier for people to give what they can without too much effort hauling frozen pizzas in your car to your co-workers.

Fund Drive last year raised over \$27,000 which was beyond our \$25,000 goal and it was thanks to the generosity of our parents. We are able to do so much for the school. Everyone’s situations are different so any donation is welcomed and valued. Some things that were purchased last year was the gaga pit, new sound system, enhanced teacher grants, Spanish room expansion, ipads for K & 1<sup>st</sup> grade. All this is because of the donations of the community and again, all funds come back to the school. Your donations are tax deductible and will receive a letter before the end of the calendar year. Options are cash, check, online or do a monthly payment plan to spread out the amount over a period of time.

Please ask family and friends to donate... example.. one family made a video asking for donations, pit the grandparents against each other, ask for donations in lieu of gifts. October 1 kicks off the drive and we hope to raise the majority of the funds by then end of the calendar year.

*Parent Comment – Check with your employer to see if they do matching funds. If they need something from the PTO to verify the donation, check with Wendy Hamstra-Smith at [treasurer@magi-pto.org](mailto:treasurer@magi-pto.org).*

It is noted that all of this is in conjunction with the volunteer hours that are donated to the school by parents.

*Insert Mr. Thomas – Don’t forget that this also funds 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp which is a great opportunity for all our students*

#### **Budget Discussion – Wendy Hamstra-Smith**

Proposal to move \$300 from the \$1000 that was allocated for 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp to be used for field trips throughout the year. The proposal was vetted through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who determined that \$700 would be enough to cover fees for families who need it. There will be a short form for teachers to fill out for field trip requests (will only be the date of the field trip, the number of students covered and

total amount). Teachers will just fill it out (no need for parents to do anything) and will be reimbursed the money. This will only be used for accounting purposes.

*PC – Why don't we just pay for all the field trips and ask for families to donate money? It should be a wash since families would donate.*

Response – That would be a large expense and would need to be determined how much that would cost (example, K might go on 6-7 field trips at an average of \$10). If that is a direction the parent body wants to go, we ask for some to research the cost and put together a proposal to discuss. This would potentially impact the fund raising and could change the items that we are funding throughout the year.

### **Voting – Jessica Shasserre**

Jessica provided a URL on the agenda (it is long because we tried to go with the lowest cost options to keep operating budgets to a minimum)

*Side Notes as voting is happening...*

*Natalie Johnson – A fund raiser has been set up with 5 Below for the whole month of October. There will be a flyer that can be shown in person or on a device and we get 10%.*

*Karen PC – In October dragon rally, we will kick off the bottle cap project. Plastic caps are collected to make a bench. PTO would pick three locations to place the bench and the students will vote on the location. She decided on a month time frame because knowing Mallinckrodt we would finish this in less time! The co-parent working on this project also has a student at Columbia and it was presented at Columbia's PTO meeting to see if we want to partner to collect together and then share the cost of driving the bottle caps to Indianapolis. A very small piece of paper will be sent on scrap paper home (because recycling.....) with details. Jessica will add it to the monthly newsletter as well.*

### **Voting Results – Jessica Shasserre**

PTO Board Secretary is... drumroll... Gina Stone!  
Field Trip Fund was voted at 96% so motion passes!

**Meeting Adjourned!**