

PTO September 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Special Guest: Superintendent Cynthia Thomas
PTO members present:
President: Elizabeth Hitchcock
Vice President: Caleb Dawson
Board Member at large: Tanesha Whatley
Secretary: Carrie Jaxon

I. Intro and Welcome

A. Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance of PTO budget - 6200.10

Debits - 5,033.25

Credits - 5,390

End balance - 6,556. 85

B. Public Relations

- Debra Lauer reports that we are having great engagement with social media.
- Recent posts that have received a lot of traffic include those mentioning the car rider signs, and our meeting today with Superintendent Thomas
- Debra has put out favorites lists for all TES teachers, in order for families to provide their teacher with items the teacher needs and enjoys.

II. Principal's Remarks

Ms. Sim's Report:

- Car rider signs seem to be helping. Everyone please do your part to continue this successful system
- Thank you to Ms. Patterson, all parents, Superintendent Thomas, teachers and parents, PTO, and to the students.
- Last week evaluations were held, testing 950 children, conducted by a great team. In depth data meetings were conducted last week, with interventions starting next week for children in need of extra help.
- The Liberty Legacy Reading Program will happen thanks to Troy Bank & Trust. It includes 10 weeks curriculum for 2nd and 3rd grade.
- Student Council officer elections within 6th grade will happen September 29th. We are doing videos instead of campaigning, due to COVID restrictions. Officers will be elected in homerooms.
- Fall break Oct 11-12, 2021.
- Charles Henderson Homecoming is the week of October 18th, Red Ribbon week the following week. These will include special activities for students to participate in.
- Virtual family nights will begin soon, things will be sent home to interact with the children including reading and math. This will include resources for parents to use at home.
- Title 1 meeting (Sept 27) will be open to the public, will be posted online after it has finished.

- A survey will be sent home soon through Title 1 program with 2-week window to return. This provides important information back to school from parents.
- (Question online for Ms. Sims) Are field trips allowed? We are watching and waiting to see what to do. At the moment they are permitted. None planned yet.

III. Guest Speaker: Mrs. Cynthia Thomas - TCS Superintendent

- We've fortunately received lots of federal money to help with the interruption of COVID-19. Numerous intervention coaches have been hired. We hope to close the gap for what children have missed out on. All 3 schools have extra individuals in place to catch up students academically. Reading and Math Coaches as well as Intervention Support.
- We've implemented new programs in all 3 schools - STEM labs in all schools. These include education in coding, robotics, 3D printing and engineering.
- Project Lead the Way was started by Dr. Joanna Taylor. This addresses a program focusing on energy, flight, space and aerospace engineering.
- Academic academies are also in place to get associate degrees.
- The strategic plan revisited, everything in place to be successful in schools.
- Mrs. Thomas then reviewed the Troy City Board of Education Mission Statement and list of Beliefs upheld by the Board, as well as Troy City School's Seven Steps to Success. These can be found on their website.
- All Troy City Schools staff members are in place, which is fortunate.

Questions from audience:

Can you tell us more about Project Lead the Way?

Mrs. Thomas: It includes a curriculum on all 3 campuses focused on Energy, hands on activities that students get to maneuver, as well as flight and space and aerospace engineering

Can you tell us more about the Troy City Schools commercial?

Mrs. Thomas: We have a provider out of Ozark that will provide us with a commercial about the school system, which we are very excited about. We also have digital signage near Walmart.

Can you expand on the budget?

Mrs. Thomas: Budget hearing is on Thursday - open to public at Central Office at 5:30. Sept 20 as well.

Are PreK required to wear masks all day?

Mrs. Sims: No, not at that age.

Can you tell us about the new COVID guidelines?

Mrs. Thomas: New COVID guidelines are posted on Troy City Schools webpage.

IV. Events/Service

- A) Fall festival is on pause, we hope to initiate it in the spring.
- B) Teacher conference Day is 10/14. Usually, we do lunch for teachers. We are currently looking for donations.

V. Teacher Grant Program

update – We would like to designate funds towards the teacher/grant program. Last year we did \$3000.

VI. Fundraising

- A) Committee updates
 - We've sent out letters to community. \$3334 has come in from this effort. We need to call the people who haven't responded to the letters. Looking for volunteers to call. We're doing this instead of selling candy bars, etc.
 - We need to help people in our community realize that we need to invest in our schools. Please email if interested in helping: troyelementarypto@gmail.com
- B) T-shirts profit of about \$1000 for Teacher grant program
 - Time to sell long sleeves (\$15) and hoodies (\$20)
 - Short sleeved shirts should be arriving soon to distribute.
 - Stay tuned to Facebook about long sleeve and hoodies for sale.

VII. Other Business

- A) Grants for Special Areas - in past we've done \$500 - music, PE, Art. \$1500 total for the year. Motion has been seconded, all in favor. We will get the money to the special areas.
- B) Grants for Counselors and library - grant amount? How will they use the money? Articles of clothing, school supplies, student needs. We will ask them what they need. We'll discuss next meeting.
- C) Committee sign up info – This is for outside grants. Lydia Carmody spearheaded a few of these this past year. There are a lot of possibilities. Volunteers welcome.
- D) 10/19/21 next meeting

Follow-Up:

- Teacher grant \$6500 in balance at moment. Last semester \$3000 would be dedicated to Teacher Grant program. Taking out 1500 for special areas. Motion placed and seconded for the \$3000 for the Teacher Grant program. We'll begin process soon. Teacher grant program has contributed to Vocal program, Reading by Rapping, computer hardware, mice for Chromebook, manipulatives for 1st grade. Looking for new members for the committee. We'll send email about grant application to Ms. Sims, who'll forward it to the teachers.