**GRAEBNER PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

**Graebner Grapevine**

Information from the November 17, 2021, general meeting

The meeting came to order at 6:04 pm with 3 board members, Mrs. Wood, and 7 general members in attendance.

* President Autumn Jacobs welcomed attendees and read the mission statement. She said that the GPTO website www.graebnerpto.com and Facebook/Graebner PTO are the best ways to keep up with PTO activities.
* Autumn announced that no nominations were received for the vacant GPTO Secretary position. No one volunteered at the meeting. Nominations to fill the remaining Secretary term through June 30, 2022, should be submitted as soon as possible. Persons eligible to be Secretary must have served as a GPTO Committee Chairperson. A full job description is available on the website.

**Graebner Reports**

Principal’s Report (Mrs. Wood)- Mrs. Wood said UCS Superintendent Robert Monroe will visit Graebner on Friday to meet with the Implementation Team to learn and observe how Graebner is since the fall return. Students are encouraged to wear Graebner gear or blue that day. Everyone is looking forward to Thanksgiving break starting on Wednesday. Mrs. Wood is happy to see that students are settling back in compared to earlier this year but added they are still working on routines and building stamina for a full day of learning. A parent asked how the area substitute teacher shortage is affecting Graebner. Mrs. Wood said that our building has two regular building substitutes that are used first, then they pull from a pool that includes the Art, Music, Gym, ISM, Media Center, Title 1 Literacy and English Language Learning teachers. The office maintains a detailed schedule to be sure the students and teachers affected are properly rotated to minimize the burden on any one group.

6th Grade Parent Committee (Corey Wisinewski & Allison Grawberg)- They earned $530 for Halloween candygrams, $870 in bottle returns, and almost $700 so far in this month’s penny war game. The class that collects the most will win indoor recess games. The 6th grade t-shirts are being printed and will likely be delivered around Thanksgiving. They will sell Christmas candygrams from December 3 through December 13 that will be delivered on December 17th. An online Little Cesar’s pizza kit fundraiser will kick off in January. The next subcommittee meeting will be held December 9 at 6:30 pm.

**Committee Reports**

Committee Chairs (Laura Bergen)- Vice President Laura Bergen announced the Holiday Night committee is still in need of a chairperson.

Secretary’s Report (Position Vacant)- Treasurer Jenna Wiland presented minutes she took at the October meeting on behalf of the vacant Secretary position. Laura Bergen moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Holly Mayhew.

Treasurer’s Report (Jenna Wiland)- Jenna reviewed the October financial activity. She moved to approve. Laura Bergen seconded.

Community Relations Committee (Chairperson Vacant)- Activity pending a secretary.

Beautifications Committee (Andrea Weichbrodt)- The grounds will be switched from fall décor to holiday over Thanksgiving break.

Playground (Amanda Krieg and Joe Puleo)- They walked the playground and took pictures to identify current issues. They next plan to conduct a survey of teacher needs.

**Activities/Fundraising**

Passive Fundraising (Autumn Jacobs)-Please continue to use Kroger Reports, Amazon Smile, and the BoxTops app to generate funds for the school and GPTO. The late October BoxTops were mailed in before the November 1 due date and earned $7.50. Future BoxTops should go through the app.

Spiritwear Sale (Autumn Jacobs)- Fall orders were sorted and delivered to school. Remaining stock will be posted as available on the website.

Fun Run (Jenna Wiland)- A grand total of $15,766.76 was raised, which includes $3,751.76 in-school donations and $12,015 online donations. The FundHub fees were almost $1000, but made the prize tracking and distribution significantly easier. Jenna submitted a budget proposal to the membership to split the remaining funds basically three ways: $5,000 to Graebner (to fund the BrainPop software, Laminator cutter & stand, and a new Behavior system); $5,000 to Teachers/Students (to fund Teacher Allocations, Classroom prize allocations and field trip transportation); and $5,000 to Graebner PTO (to fund basic operations, free events, and Fun Run expenses/prizes). The budget proposal passed with 6 yes and 0 no votes.

Restaurant Night (Laura Bergen)- Laura said the recent restaurant night at Cheng’s earned $150. The next event will be held at Jet’s Pizza on December 14, followed by Chuck E. Cheese on January 11.

**Old Business**

Trunk or Treat (Amanda Krieg)- The event was a success with 47 vehicles and about 150 kids registered. The biggest issue was the number of unregistered trick-or-treaters that showed up and had to be turned away. It was advised that next year the committee develop a method to allow students to come without a car, or to make it clearer that all trick-or-treaters must register as part of a vehicle in advance, as some unregistered persons believed only vehicles required registration. The trick-or-treating time was shortened to 45 minutes instead of an hour but still seemed plenty of time.

Staff Appreciation Special Treat (Autumn Jacobs)- Pies and snacks were brought in for Graebner staff the day after fall conferences in appreciation for the dedication in a challenging work environment this fall.

**New Business**

Roller Skating Party (Holly Mayhew)- A skate night will be held on Friday at the New Rink on Van Dyke near 23 Mile from 5-7 pm.

Holiday Shop (Sarah Merzlak)- The Holiday/Santa shop will be held virtually through Fun Services. The membership discussed dates and selected December 2 through 7, with delivery to the school between December 13 and 15th. Fliers will be sent out as soon as possible.

Holiday Night (Autumn Jacobs)- The traditional Holiday Night has been reimagined as an outdoor drive-through event. Students and vehicles will need to register in advance for a time slot to prevent overcrowding on Saal but the event will be free. A date was tentatively set for December 16, as closer to break was considered less distracting for students.

**General Discussion and Comments**

* It was asked about gifting for staff for the holidays. The PTO has asked staff members for a list of their favorite things and posted it on their website. A flier and Facebook post will be created to make parents aware of this.
* The next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 15 at 6pm.
* The meeting ended approximately 6:59 pm.

**Keep up to date and learn more about the GPTO and its activities**

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