

Patriot Oaks PTO Meeting Minutes

8/17/2015 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Patriot Oaks Academy Cafeteria

Attendance:

Board Members: Robyn Lilac, Amy Mendheim, Tonya Porter, Aimee Decaria, Jenny Mahne, Emily Harrison. PTO Members signed in on membership list. Thank you to Mrs. Beverly Slough for joining us for our meeting.

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Patriot Oaks PTO was held in the Cafeteria of Patriot Oaks Academy on Monday, August 17, 2015. President Robyn Lilac called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Jenny Mahne will record minutes for this meeting.

Approval of the Minutes: from May 12, 2015: Meredith Connell made a motion to approve the minutes from May. Stephanie Towns second. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Reports:

❖ President's Report

- Thank you to the families who have joined PTO this year.
 - If you have not, please visit the PTO website to complete your membership.
 - Membership funds support our school.
 - Membership allows you to vote and receive valuable information directly to your email.
- Spirit wear is still available to order until the 20th - check on the PTO website under the Parent Pages tab to order.
- Spirit Sticks –
 - Key rings should have already gone home with your students.
 - Sticks will be available both for sale and for incentives for participating in school programs such as A.R.
- Planners are available for purchase for 2nd – 8th – also under the Parent pages tab on the PTO Website.
- Thank you to our teacher appreciation committee for organizing a wonderful welcome back breakfast for our entire POA Staff.
- Thank you to our welcome committee for hosting a wonderful breakfast to welcome our kindergarten parents and for organizing numerous volunteers to assist students last week.
- Reminder to parents about the kickback programs that support PTO – can be found on Patriot Oaks PTO website at <http://www.patriotoakspto.org/Kickbacks>
- Upcoming Events
 - **Aug 28** – Middle School Dance
 - **Sept 18** - Movie Night & Book Fair
 - **Sept. 11** – Patriot Day (We will honor Patriot Day by creating a Walk of Remembrance at the front of the school using students created Flags of Honor and Poems)
 - **Sept. 18 – 25** - Book Fair
 - **Oct. 5 -16** – Chargerthon Fundraiser

❖ Treasurer (Tonya Porter)

- Gave overview of current balance as of this date:
 - Main operating account - \$54,423.17
 - Playground reserve - \$10,957.62
 - Staff Development - \$1,462.49
 - -- For a total of \$66,843.49
 - Presented the 2015 – 2016 budget for approval
 - Vote to approve 2015 – 2016 budget
 - Kristen Blausey made a motion to approve the 2015 – 2016 budget. Mary Broadwater second motion. Unanimous approval of the budget.
- ❖ Principal's Report: (Emily Harrison and Beverly Slough)
- Introduced Mrs. Beverly Slough, our St. Johns County District Board of Supervisors Chairman: Mrs. Slough presented the following on the proposed sales tax increase that will be voted on November 3rd:
 - Brief overview of Proposed Sales Tax Increase that will be voted on in November
 - This referendum is for SCHOOL funding ONLY.
 - There will be a Town Hall Meeting in our neighborhood soon (more to come soon.)
 - Growth rate is currently 3.58 % with over 1400 new students this year.
 - SJCSD was already 2 schools behind at start of this year.. with growth rate/new students, district is now 4 schools behind.
 - Because of the laws in the State of Florida, you cannot move school operations dollars budget to Capital budget.
 - When the State cut millage fees a few years ago, it cost about 180 million dollars in revenue to build new schools.
 - While sales tax would not generate enough to cover all of the needs, it will allow SJCSD to leverage the funds and begin construction on needed buildings.
 - Referendum (Voting) will happen November 3rd. If you are not registered to vote yet in St. Johns County – or know a neighbor who is not yet registered – encouraged to do so soon.
 - A citizens group has formed to get the word out.
 - Resources:
 - New webpage: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/halfcentsalestax/>
 - There is also a group of citizens who have formed and started a Facebook Page where you can follow along: Better Schools Better Economy Brighter Future (<https://www.facebook.com/abetterstjohns?fref=ts>)
 - District representatives will be at the Patriot Oaks SAC meeting September 22nd.
 - The district is currently spending \$191,000 a month to rent portable classrooms.

- All are welcome to call or email Mrs. Slough with any questions.
- Mrs. Harrison gave a visible learning update/overview: constantly looking for new trends and process improvement through visible learning. Creekside High School is now training their teachers in Visible Learning, as well.
 - Teachers have a foundational training day and multiple follow up training day to learn how to evaluate growth in their students
 - Teachers attend a PLC conference learning how to look at data and measure the impact what they are doing in the classroom.
 - One big piece to visible learning includes frequent surveying of students. Encourages teachers to be reflective on their teaching skills and practice.
- Encouraged those present to please urge neighbors to join PTO.
- Enrollment is up.
 - First projections were at 850 last year. The school opened at 1050 without 8th grade. This year pushed the projections to 1250 students. Currently at 1330.
 - We have had some hiccups because of the rapid growth, including some open positions that are still being filled (expressed focus on doing so without compromising quality of teachers.)
 - Buses have also had some issues. The new Transportation Director has done a wonderful job trying to keep up with the growth, but is still working to remedy these issues now.
- Neighborhood across the street from school is having major issues during drop off and pick up due to traffic from vehicles who do not live in that area. Please be respectful of those homeowners.
- School is adding our 4th bike rack area.
- Clarified the homework policy: there is not a “No Homework” policy.... Instead want homework that is useful to students but do not prevent students from participating in activities outside of school. Encourage parents please talk with teachers about your student to find out what areas they may need extra work on home that are helpful to that student. It is a flexible homework policy that is designed for parents to make the most of their time with their students.
- Spirit Sticks for homework will be coming home soon.
- Feedback and surveys will continue and we pay close attention to these and use them to direct what we do.
- VOTERS! Encourage your neighbors to register to vote! A digital flyer just went home about the Referendum.

❖ New Business/Committee Reports:

- Volunteer Coordinator (Meredith Connell):
 - Volunteer orientation/overview – please visit the Patriot Oaks PTO website to begin the approval process.

- You will need to be an approved volunteer to come into the school building for all activities during school hours.
 - Your application will be good for 3 years. You should be auto-renewed by the Volunteer Coordinator, but please check with Volunteer Coordinator if you have questions. *** email address.
- Teacher Appreciation – (Kristen Blausey):
- The theme for Teacher Appreciation this year is Set Sail for Success. It is a nautical theme and all TA activities and gifts will be centered around this theme.
 - Recap of the TA breakfast and the kindergarten breakfast.
- Box Tops Committee – (Mary Broadwater and Carrie Merchant):
- What we are collecting
 - Box Tops
 - Campbell’s Labels
 - Tyson Labels
 - Information sheets will be sent to room moms to forward on to parents
 - Fall contest
 - Begin 8/31/15
 - Ends 10/2/15
 - Prizes to top 3 classrooms week of 10/16 (pending prizes arriving)
 - Spring Contest
 - Super Bowl theme
 - More info to come

Meeting Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Next Meeting Date & Time:

Monday, October 05, 2015 – 9:15 a.m. meeting at **Patriot Oaks Academy**

Submitted by,
Jenny Mahne
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____