

## Merriam PTO Board Meeting

### Agenda

December 3, 2020

- Open PTO Meeting tonight- Questions that have been offered
  - When will Book Buddies happen?
  - Where is the process for bylaw revision?
  - Are we following the bylaws this year?
  - Will Merriam do marching band?
  - When will virtual visits to the classroom happen? (spurred an in-board-meeting discussion of how more participation/view into the school can and is being achieved via ASM)
- Bylaws
  - Do the Bylaws have to be amended, or can they be legally rewritten? Is there someone (Ginny Kremer?) legally knowledgeable who can consult on this?
  - If Replacing: what about a blurb at the beginning saying it's a rewrite and the original is available?
  - Funding for assistants may need to be addressed – being discussed on an admin level right now with the district. If it is discovered if/how much we are allowed to raise for assistants the bylaws committee will be informed
  - Process to be in place for determining how money will be spent
  - Want to maintain things like Camp Fair and avoid Gift Wrap type fundraisers
  - Would be so desirable to have, for instance, resident specialists per year. Could be yearly \$\$ allocated for a 'Principal's Project'? The rest allocated to 'Teacher Projects'?
  - To restate – there needs to be a voting system or committee to figure out how spending happens. Cultural coordinator may be something to reimplement.
- Book Fair
  - Not possible for a pre-holidays event. Conceivable for Feb/before Feb break. The book industry is also struggling to fill demands. Making efforts towards booking an online fair for NEXT holiday season. Likely not a browsing fair next year.
  - Maybe a book fair AT the Silver Unicorn with teacher book reads next year (or maybe just teacher book reads..)
- Camp Fair
  - So far there is no one interested in taking on Camp Fair – we will table Camp Fair for this year
- Fun Run
  - Can be done – no money owed for supporting program – March-ish?

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- Bridges
  - A presentation around what they do for work. Kate's friend's daughter's company is a bridge engineering firm and are willing to come in and help out. Could do an ASM presentation and spin it into a competition with mentorship.

In other discussion:

FYI – Art Challenge from Allyson upcoming soon

Concerns about tech being too present in the school classroom day, wanting to get the students less screen but it's difficult threading the asynch days without the tech. Asynch day equity in activities are important (if some kids are able to participate in 'virtual recesses' etc, but others aren't) – parents are tapped, and teachers are working at 100% capacity with no extra gas in the tank.

Communications to post videos from ASM as much as possible in N2K and on Facebook – Art Shows, PE vids etc.

Amazon Smile and Box Tops could use boosting and reps.

Picnics need sprucing for next year. So much potential

Buddies for new families? Get a volunteer buddy family (kindergarten is a different scenario)  
Maybe buddies program could be open to existing families as well or should that be its own thing? Ripple the family group structure out to families at large?