

## Hilliard Crossing PTO Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023 7pm Hilliard Crossing IDC

Participants: Katie Meyer, Donna Rzepka, Ryan Taylor, DJovana Carro, Emily Smith, Hung Phan, Jordan Showalter, Cortney Rotz, Elizabeth Kiernan, Maria Garcia Li, David Li, Erica Dittoe, Naheda Ramadan, Emily Bell, Nick Bell, Yeseul Moon, Nikki Hursh, Catina Taylor, Kayla Pinnick

Katie calls meeting to order.

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Board Reports:

**President Report:** Stephanie Boys is collecting snacks for afternoon and breakfast for kiddos who forget or need a snack. She is in Hyde Park, reach out to Katie for address or you can bring donations to the school and drop off at the office.

**Vice President Report:** Nothing new to report.

**Treasurer Report:** There are a few carryover items from last school year, details with budget review.

**Secretary Report:** Minutes from May 2023 meeting are posted on Google Drive and will continue to be sent to Mrs. Sheril to post to the school PTO webpage. Can we post approved minutes on Facebook PTO page under the files as well or make Google Drive accessible under the files? Going forward will post unapproved minutes under Facebook PTO page files for review prior to the following meeting. Ryan motions to approve May 2023 minutes, Nikki seconds. Minutes approved.

**Communications Report:** Kroger Rewards and Volunteer Badge links are posted to the top of the Facebook page.

**Principal Report:** We are currently going through our early assessments to form our intervention groups and are taking on two new curriculums, Language Arts and Math. Started module one this week for Language Arts called *Wit and Wisdom* and our math curriculum, *Illustrative Math*. Going to take a pause on curriculum night for two main reasons, one is because it would be the same night as mum delivery the parking lot would be too congested. Secondly to give teachers more time to get more under their belts. Last year we did more of an open house in the winter. We are still going to have the parent night with guest speaker Alex Beekman but it will be rescheduled. Stay tuned for those new dates. October 4<sup>th</sup> first intern report comes out, come out in book bags, they do not go into home access.

**Teachers Report:** Jordan Showalter present to represent staff. Thank you so much for all of your efforts. We truly appreciate all of the stuff you guys do and the upcoming coffees makes us so very grateful. These things make such a huge difference in our day and really is special to us. There are wonderings about the playground especially from the kindergarten team and wondering about teacher reimbursements. Katie answered teacher reimbursements are \$125 for full time teachers and \$75 for part time. Teacher grants however were cut this year to help aid in the playground fund.

The piece of the playground had some broken pieces due to years of wear and tear of combined use from the school and surrounding community. Those areas became a safety issue that it needed to be removed.

Katie has contacted several companies to come give quotes on pieces of equipment that will fit in the space and will be more likely to be affordable. Katie and Kayla will be having a meeting in the morning to review possible pieces of equipment. Jordan expressed concern that new playground equipment would need to be accessible to kiddos within the LSP unit also. Katie is going to talk with company representative about adding the access points that go into the mulch, and would like to find an affordable accessible swing, this would be a future years project.

Katie has been looking at lower profile pieces, more geared toward K-2, that are more similar to the piece of equipment that was removed from the playground over the summer. The piece that was removed due to safety concerns was a pretty significant piece. Area is now covered with mulch so kids can play. The PTO is responsible for a lot of the funding to replace the piece of equipment. Kayla is talking to the central office if they can assist in any way, but they will not be paying for the new piece. Kayla has been saving over the past several years from picture money and will be donating

from the principal's fund to the playground. The equipment is very expensive, and this makes fundraisers even more important this year. Having the district remove the equipment did eliminate the removal cost from the PTO/Crossing.

Katie and Kayla will narrow it down to a few pieces. PTO budget for playground is around \$37,000 as long as goals for fundraisers are met this year. Most modest pieces are around \$40-45,000 plus the cost of installation, which can be up to half the cost of the piece of equipment. Swings are also damaged, Kayla has put in a maintenance order and is waiting to see if it replaced, repaired, or removed. Some playground companies are anywhere from 5 weeks to 5 months out for installation once ordered. Katie is still looking into grants as well, timing may be an issue to get grant and playground installation to line up.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Mum Sale:** Goes through Monday 9/18/23. Fundraising is especially important this year due to the playground needs. Halfway to our goal currently, right around \$1,700. Mums/flower sales have approximately 24% profit margin. Delivery day is Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup>, would love to have volunteers to unload sort and distribute. Sign up genius in Kaylas weekly email. Pick up window is 12p-5:30pm.

**Read -a-Thon:** Erica will help coordinate. October 16-19 Local author Julie Dingus visit (IDC), ideal for k-5. She would like to have book promoted and school visit would be free. K-1<sup>st</sup> grade is 30 min and 2nd-5<sup>th</sup> grade is 45 min. Nikki will get with Julie to schedule a time that works. Possible ideas for activities during the week: Bookmark making craft, mystery guest reader, dress up as favorite book character. There will be a family read in and Picnic on October 19<sup>th</sup>. School will have a spirit week during read-a -thon, October 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>. Will think about what incentives there will be for the kids, contact local businesses (flyers, Wendys) for donations, ask teachers if they are willing to do a teacher raffle, bracelets for kids.

**Spirit Nights:** Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> Flyers (HRR Location) all day. Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> Get Air 4pm-8pm. Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> Chipotle (HRR location). Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> Red Robin (HRR location). Looking for someone to help organize spirit nights for the remainder of the year.

**Spirit Wear Wrap Up:** Today is the last day. Another sale will be in most likely in November, following up with Amy Welling.

#### **New Business:**

**Budget Approval:** Carried over \$42,509 from last year. Big changes from last year's income budget include: School store increased to \$500, did well last year. Spirit night increased to \$1000. Spring flower sale didn't do as well last year so budget was decreased to \$4,300. Added field day t-shirt money line item. IDC book fair money line item added. Community Donation lowered to \$0, Amazon Smiles no longer doing donations. Expenditure Budget changes from last year: field trips lowered to \$900 per grade. Cut authors in the school and COSI visits, was not used last year. COSI no longer coming to school since COVID. Cut teacher wish list /grants this year. Playground fund will be around \$26,000. There was approximately \$1,000 in carry over items from last year. DJovana motions to approve budget, Naheda seconds. Budget for 2023-2024 school year approved.

**Spring flower sale contract:** Fortmyer and Sons grows and supplies flowers, asking for future commitment. Other option for Spring fundraiser would be a possible "A-thon." Another idea could be a possible community night, involving local businesses. Cookie dough sales a possibility, but delivery/refrigeration for PTO and families could become an issue. Possibly do flowers and online donation option side by side so people can choose what works best for their family. Will continue with Spring flower sale 2024 for now, then change fundraiser next fall.

**School Store:** Ryan received applications from 5<sup>th</sup> graders to run the store. Erica is reviewing applications then will teach them how to run the store.

Naheda motions to adjourn. Ryan seconds. Meeting adjourned.